

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 1 Section, 12 Pages, Volume 77 No. 50 Published Weekly Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

illinois-valley-news.com

Oregon's next governor celebrates state's 156th birthday

Martha Bellisle
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Making her first official public appearance since Gov. John Kitzhaber announced his resignation amid an ethics scandal, Oregon governor-to-be Kate Brown was swarmed by media and well-wishers as she entered the Oregon Historical Society at an event marking the state's 156th birthday.

Brown avoided any mention of her new job or the criminal investigation into the man she is set to replace. Instead, she vowed protect the state's beautiful landscape and people.

"Our task, our challenge is to make sure we keep Oregon the very special place that it is and I look forward to working with you to make sure that happens," she said Saturday. "So happy birthday, Oregon."

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Happy Birthday Oregon!



Oregon became the 33rd state on Feb. 14, 1859. Today, Oregon is the 9th largest and 27th most populous U.S. state.

High levels of crime hurt everyone

By
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"Crime in the Illinois Valley is extremely high," said Sheriff Dave Daniel. "There's been a recent influx of heroin in the Valley, and those who need that drug, need the money to support their habit. Word on the street is that this drug is coming in big shipments. This kind of activity is cyclical; and it spikes crime, which hurts everyone. We need to find the people involved."

Daniel stressed the importance of citizens keeping their eyes open and networking

within their neighborhoods and working with neighborhood watch groups, which he says "are an incredible asset."

"Even if you haven't communicated with your neighbors before, now is the time to open up those lines of communication," Daniel said. "If your neighborhood doesn't have a watch group, you need to form one."

Daniel also stressed the importance of reporting any and all crime incidents.

"Nationally there is a huge shift toward statistical-based law enforcement. This helps us locate and identify particular crime hot spots and hot issues, so these statistics are very important," Daniel said. "Even more so, in a

fund-limited environment, we really need to know where to put the energy and investigation. We have to focus our resources, and if we don't know where crime is occurring, we'll focus elsewhere."

Daniel added that he understands how "incredibly frustrating" it is to not have someone answering the phone at the Sheriff's office, and added that he's working hard to remedy the situation.

"Even if it's just to talk to someone to report a crime, to help discern if it meets the criteria for determining if a deputy visit is needed, people want to talk to a live person, not a machine," Daniel said.

In the meantime, Daniel wants people to utilize the Cave Junction substation and the Internet to report crimes and provide tips, as "any information we gain is helpful."

Volunteers staff the substation Monday and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1-4 p.m.

According to volunteer Linda Butler, these hours should be increasing, as more volunteers get involved.

"If people want to be part of the solution, we can always use more volunteers," Butler said.

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Volunteers helping the community children

By
Cilicia Philemon
IVN Contributing Writer

Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC) is a nonprofit organization in Southern Oregon's Illinois Valley that supports artists, schools, residents and tourism through a spectrum of programs which foster artistic expression and creativity.

One aspect of this is called Learning Through Art (LTA) in which members of IRVAC volunteer at Lorna Byrne Middle

School (LBMS) and Evergreen Elementary to help the arts educators with projects which are designed to combine with the subjects the students are studying. LTA projects bring a local and worldwide perspective and young people receive training in the arts from professionals and other community members in a positive and supportive environment. They are passionate about bringing art and cultural experiences to the youth of the Illinois Valley.

LTA began in the summer of 2003 with the Biscuit Fire

Photography project and has grown to include projects that serve a large number of local children. LTA works closely with teachers to bring proactive experiences in art, culture, history, dance, music and the environment.

For example, the students will be exploring ancient Egypt soon and they will be crafting plaster cartouches with hieroglyphics illustrating their names and an image of one of the many gods in Egyptian cosmology. A project was recently completed in which the children made mosaics by cutting colored mat

board into small squares and gluing them to a backing to get a feel for art in the Renaissance. When China was the subject, the students made paper from pulp and learned how to use brush painting to create Chinese calligraphy.

Typically, these projects involve two class periods over two days, every few weeks. They give the students a hands-on appreciation for the subject. Fine motor skills and math skills are honed when the children are able to use artists' tools, media, and techniques while expressing their creativity. The

students all agree that participation in these projects is educational, as well as fun.

Kathy Ryan is a LTA member who volunteers with the program. She says, "I am a retired teacher and I love working with children. I engage with students who create, imagine, construct and produce a work of art. I assist and clarify directions. The projects relate to a culture in the world, and the students are studying that culture at the time of the project."

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IVFD to the rescue!



(Photo courtesy of the IVFD Media Dept.)

Feb. 16, the Illinois Valley Fire District, Rural Metro and AMR responded to a reported structure fire in the 800 block of Draper Valley Road. First arriving units found a 20x40 guest house well involved. The structure was unoccupied and was being used for storage. Units were able to get the fire knocked down quickly and the remaining incoming units helped with cleanup. The fire was confined to the building of origin and the structure is a complete loss. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

County removes temporary from fair manager's title

By
Cilicia Philemon
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The Josephine County Fair is an annual event that many look forward to with eager anticipation. After changing locations a few times, the first one was held at its new permanent location in 1927 and has been held there continuously except during WWII [1942-1945] when the Fairgrounds was requisitioned to assist in the war effort.

Fairs have long been a popular attraction in Josephine County and originally were hosted by different organizations. The State of Oregon outlined how County Fair Boards would be governed in June 1913 and specified that each county would have one fair covering all interests for

the whole county.

However, in recent years, attendance at the Josephine County Fair had dropped off dramatically and the future of the fairgrounds has been in doubt. A new manager, Mary Groves was hired temporarily, and she brought many new ideas with her which enlivened the annual event and made it more relevant and interesting for the current generation.

As a result, the last Josephine County Fair was one of the best in years. This was the 100th Anniversary, and the community came out and celebrated in a very big way. Groves was then hired on a permanent basis.

"When you build the entertainment, displays and food offering, you never know if people are going to show up," says Groves. "We were so amazed at how the community supported this year's special

100th Anniversary Fair."

Some of her plans for the fairgrounds this year include a Spring Garden Show, Homebuilders Show, Tuff Trucks with IV Lions Club, Horse Racing, Truck and Tractor Pulls and Fair and Swap meets. Groves is also working on marketing the 30 full hookup RV Park at the fairgrounds. She plans to continue to rebuild for the community and to have a fun fair with something for everyone.

Groves is from Ashland, and her background is in banking for 22 years, retail and trucking. She is married with four grown children and six grandchildren. She says, "I'm pretty sure my hobby is fixing things at the fairgrounds. Not much time for anything else." She adds, "Thank you! Keep up the community support!"