



Jerry Franklin Miller, 78, of Cave Junction died March 10, 2016 surrounded by his loved ones. He was diagnosed with Lymphoma in 2007, but it barely slowed him down until the last few days.

He was born Jan. 26, 1938, the middle son of Darrel and Lovejoy Miller in Alvin, Texas. His family owned a dairy farm and he grew up playing sports and enjoying hunting, fishing and the life of a country boy. He worked at the local strawberry farm and also delivered papers for the Houston Chronicle.

After graduating from Alvin High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served his country from 1956 to 1960 as a machinery repairman aboard ships stationed in San Diego and Japan.

When he was in the fifth grade at Alvin Elementary, he was partnered with Bertha Ann Schock for the spring May Fete. A friendship developed that lasted through the years and May 31, 1957 they were married in the Alvin Lutheran Church.

Jerry and Bertha stayed in San Diego after his discharge from the Navy where he worked in the manufacturing field. In 1962, they moved to Hayward, Calif. and Jerry worked for MidCoast Plastics as a production foreman until 1971.

Their son, Darrel Lee, was born in 1962 and daughter, Nancy Kathryn was born in 1964. It was during this time in Hayward that the family became friends with Charles and Marilyn Taylor as both families belonged to St. Timothy Lutheran Church. So when the Taylor family moved their sausage business to Cave Junction in 1969, the Millers followed in 1971 and Jerry went to work for Taylor's Sausage.

In 1972, Jerry and Bertha opened a small deli featuring Taylor's sausage and sandwiches in Cave Junction. In 1975, Miller's Shady Oaks Pizza Deli was constructed and opened through Jerry's planning and design. In 1980 the Millers expanded their business by adding a pizza parlor in Brookings-Harbor. Jerry thought that brewing beer would be a unique addition to the pizza business and in 1990, a brewery was added to the building in Cave Junction (being the eighth brewery in Oregon and the 125th brewery in the United States). In 1994 as a new restaurant was opened in Grants Pass the name was changed to Wild River Brewing and Pizza Company. The Grants Pass Pub was added in 1996 and in 2006 a restaurant was built in Medford.



Jerry enjoyed living in the Illinois Valley and was active in the community. His faith was important to him as he helped build Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and served on many congregational positions. He served on the Chamber of Commerce and was a Josephine County school board member for 12 years.

Jerry was an avid fisherman and would bring back enough fish from his trips to British Columbia to host fund raisers for local charities. Among his many hobbies were carving realistic duck decoys, woodworking, restoring vintage cars and hop farming. His travels took him to all 7 continents. Bungee jumping in New Zealand, crossing the Drake Passage to Antarctica, and viewing wild animals on an African safari were among his favorite treks. He also enjoyed golfing and ballroom dancing.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Bertha Ann, his son Darrel (Becky) Miller, and Nancy (Daniel) Leedy. Jerry was a proud grandfather to Kelsie (Brandon) Buckhorn, Cody (Crystle) Miller, Kara Miller, Scott Leedy, Clay Leedy and great-grandfather to Baylie, Braxton and Niyah. He is also survived by his brothers, Emmitt (JoAnn) Miller of Alvin, Texas and Harold (Colleen) Miller of San Angelo, Texas and the Wild River family of employees and friends.

A memorial service will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cave Junction Saturday, March 26 at 2 p.m. A reception will follow at the Cave Junction Wild River. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the OHSU Foundation, Mail Stop 45, Box 4000, Portland, OR 97208-9852. If giving by check, in the memo line, please write "In memory of Jerry Miller supporting lymphoma research." To give online, go to www.OnwardOHSU.org. Or if you choose, the Boys & Girls Club, 203 SE ninth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526 or Josephine County CASA, 322 NW "F" Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526. Please visit the obituary and sign Jerry's tribute wall at www.since1928hull.com.

Break in comes with silver lining

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

On Feb. 23, thieves broke into the I.V. branch of Josephine Community Libraries (JCLI), ransacked the building and made off with cash, a brand-new I-Pad computer and a \$3,000 rock collection.

In the process, they also cut phone and Internet lines, destroyed the fuse box, and as an added affront, threw stuffed

toys from the children's room outside to be ruined in the rain.

Branch manager Roberta Lee was the first to discover the smashed window by the front door which allowed access to the building. "It was a heartbreaking incident," she recalled.

On Feb. 27, retired board member Jen Roberts was interviewed on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Sunday Conversation with John Sepulvado about the incident. Since the interview, online donations have been

pouring in from all over Oregon and across the U.S. from as far away as New York City.

Donations have also arrived from Oregon cities large and small including Albany, Aloha, Ashland, Beaverton, Corvallis, Gladstone, Joseph, Lake Oswego, Lincoln City, Medford, Tigard and Tualatin.

One remarkable \$500 donation came from Stayton. The most donations have come from Portland.

Cave Junction, O'Brien and Grants Pass donors were well

represented on the list as well.

"We received overwhelming support, both financially and emotionally," Lee said. "I'm completely blown away. We feel like the library is more loved than ever."

So far, nearly \$10,000 has been donated to JCLI. The funds will go to the cost of repairs and replacement, and any remaining dollars will go toward the planned renovation of the children's room.

SEE SILVER ON A-10

CJ Patrols back in the saddle

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Jimmy Evans is a busy guy. He works fulltime, dotes on his children and grandchildren - and he's one of the driving forces behind CJ Patrols, the group of volunteers working to protect Cave Junction homes and businesses from property crimes. Evans has gone from volunteering to help uplift Cave Junction's homeless population to living with a police radio at his side. It's a unique juxtaposition - a crime watch with compassion.

"We're trying to work on both issues, they're deeply connected. Curtis Beck and I also work at the warming shelter," said Evans, adding that whether at the shelter or encountering trouble makers while on patrol, "many times we know who these people are. Most of them grew up here."

Evans recounted a Cave Junction City Council meeting, where someone said a silent majority in the community want to put the homeless people on a bus and ship them all to Portland - but he stresses that passing the buck won't address the perennial issues giving rise to the crime spree the community is coping with now.

Evans is also dismayed when "people you wouldn't expect" approach him and say they want to "go through town and beat up local criminals. That's not going to work. It would only make things worse. These guys causing the trouble already have a lot of anger in their hearts. That's where you're seeing this senseless vandalism, like at the library."

To effectively address local crime issues, Evans says the general population, including community leaders, politicians and business owners, must better-understand the demographic of the Valley's criminal element - and get involved.

"What you have is your 18

to 30-year-olds, and many are unemployed, homeless and drug-addicted. So what's left? They're going to do what they have to do to get their drugs, and that means crime," he said. "I talked to a 15-year-old homeless kid the other day. We see these kids walking around on the streets all night, they have nowhere to go."

After taking a short break to reorganize, CJ Patrols is back on the job. The group created a "general field guide" that delineates procedures: including areas of coverage, radio usage and safety protocols.

"I'm really proud of this solid core of people who are so committed," Evans said. "We're all about preventing and decreasing property crimes and helping the police arrest criminals in CJ. We do this by monitoring, reporting and interrupting crime."

SEE PATROLS ON A-10

The Burgundy Lane Gang



(Photo courtesy of Alex Ponder for The Illinois Valley News)

Jesse "Messy Jesse" Connell (left), Bryson "Bryce-A-Ronni" Gilmore, Nathaniel "The Danniell" Connell, Bram "Brammo" Ponder of the Hanby neighborhood enjoy a sunny day Tuesday, March 15.