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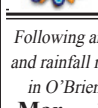
M & TH 11-6
FRIDAY 11-7
AT CHEVRON IN CJ

SATURDAY 9-1
AT GRANTS PASS
GROWERS' MARKET

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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

	Thursday, April 7 Clear High -- 85 Low -- 49
	Friday, April 8 Partly Cloudy High -- 73 Low -- 47
	Saturday, April 9 Partly Cloudy High -- 67 Low -- 41
	Sunday, April 10 Clear High -- 68 Low -- 40
	Monday, April 11 Clear High -- 67 Low -- 42
	Tuesday, April 12 Partly Cloudy High -- 69 Low -- 42
	Wednesday, April 13 Chance of Rain High -- 66 Low -- 41

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson:

Mar	High	Low	Rain
25	55.7	41.0	.00
26	55.9	41.0	.05
27	58.2	36.1	.00
28	52.6	32.8	.00
29	60.7	32.1	.00
30	71.0	30.5	.00
31	75.4	34.4	.00

Mar Rain: 18.33" YTD Rain: 82.94"
Average Yearly Rain Total: n/a Inches

Vision project heads into home stretch

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

With completion of the third general planning session at I.V. High School March 29, the Illinois Valley 20/20 Community Visioning process is entering the home stretch.

Through small focus groups and large brainstorming sessions, 28 areas of focus have been identified and five top community priorities selected with public safety and law enforcement at the top of the list.

The next four include affordable housing, emergency shelter and senior housing; downtown development and beautification; lodging and visitor accommodations; and community pride and support of youth success winning the next largest numbers of votes through an online survey.

Survey No. 3 is now available by visiting www.ivcdo.org. All interested community members are encouraged to participate as soon as possible.

During the March 29 planning session, action teams were formed to brainstorm quick wins that could be completed by the end of June and potential steps to reach them were discussed.

Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) event leader Amanda Close reminded the teams that the final strategic plan will be a living document, not something set

in stone. She stated that it's incumbent on each team to do their own outreach, including through social media, phone and "Basecamp" an Internet project management system; to communicate and support identified actions to accomplish goals and to find others willing to help.

The public safety team discussed how to create a fundraiser to help support the various governmental and volunteer safety efforts already in place, potential action partners and available resources and how to select which efforts to fund. Events, products and campaigns were evaluated as to probable success and the amount of time needed to complete.

The affordable housing team will look at ways to increase housing stock, including a close look at "tiny houses." The visitor accommodation team will explore ways for the county to allow more bed-and-breakfast businesses and to develop a visitor association that will fund more advertising for Valley motels, campgrounds, restaurants and other tourist focused businesses.

The community pride and youth support team will be creating signage to promote the Valley through positive language. The slogan "Illinois Valley, Naturally" was selected and will soon be appearing locally, possibly as "Burma Shave" style signs to help boost public perception of the community in the

region.

Over the next few weeks, residents and their families and friends will be surveyed for reasons to be proud of the community. Also, over the next two weeks, the current 25 page Strategic Plan and accompanying Vision Statement will be honed to clarify and further prioritize short-term and long-term goals.

New focus groups continue to meet, among them a youth support session that took place March 31 at the Kerby Belt Building (KBB). Like most other focus groups, they identified the Valley's natural beauty and proximity to nature as sources of pride. Another source of pride is the Valley's many caring volunteers and locals' ability to accomplish a lot with little resources.

A healthy community has fewer problems, and the

focus group was told enlightened self interest is key to making that happen.

This group identified mental health and affordable housing as contributing to community pride. They also recognized the importance of more education and communication, finding more child care resources, creating peer mediation and conflict resolution and combating the perception or fear of scarcity and the resulting crime were also identified as important goals. Many stated they would participate more in Valley activities if they had more time and money.

A community wide 20/20 celebration is timed to coincide with the IVCDO annual general membership meeting, 5:30 p.m. April 21 at the Kerby Belt Building. Those interested in participating are asked to call 541-956-7400 to RSVP.



(Photo by Judy Hoyle, Illinois Valley News)

Amanda Close listens to Mary Reynolds' report at the 20/20 planning session held Tuesday, March 29.



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AMENDMENTS

NEW MATERIALS FOR SPRING 2016 :

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