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Mural contest to showcase Valley pride

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

A new committee, the I.V. Pride Campaign has announced a mural project for the band shell at Jubilee Park. The structure has often been defaced with graffiti over the past few years.

The Cave Junction City Council approved the project at their May 9 meeting and the deadline for submitting artwork for the Pride Committee's review will be May 27 at 5 p.m.

The contest is open to Illinois Valley residents, ages 11-19, and students who help paint a mural at the park will receive community service hours. Supporting efforts like documenting the process with audio or video recordings will also qualify for community service hours.

The design theme is Illinois Valley beauty and pride. Entries that best reflect this theme will be chosen.

The designs must be submitted on an 11 inch by 17 inch sheet of paper in portrait orientation with their name, age and phone number written on the back. There is no limit to the number of entries one person may submit.

Entries may be handed into the Illinois Valley branch of Josephine Community Libraries, or the offices of Lorna Byrne Middle School, Madrone School or the Dome School. At I.V. High School, both Ms. Munez and Ms. Underwood will be accepting submissions.

I.V. Pride Campaign volunteers representative Kellyn Gross stated, "We're planning for a series of little murals to go on the walls of the band shell. We want to give kids a sense of ownership in the artwork and help improve community pride."

Community members are invited to help support this project with contributions of exterior grade paint, painting supplies or cash and are asked to contact Gross at 1-253-652-9128 to arrange for the donation.

The city may also be buying anti-graffiti paint for the project.

The committee plans to install up to 16 sheets of decorated 4 feet by 8 feet plywood on the band shell.

"Some families might not feel comfortable being around the homeless people at the park," Gross said.

"We're not anti-homeless people, we're more pro-having students do something creative and fun. This is a community development event."

"The intent of this project is to give youth ownership in their community and foster a sense of pride in their home. We also think such beautification projects will build relationships in the I.V. and make public spaces like Jubilee Park more enjoyable and inclusive," she said.

The group was formed as a result of the Illinois Valley 20/20 Community Visioning sessions. Committees have formed from focus groups and the community strategic planning sessions held at I.V. High School.

The committees were challenged to create projects that could be accomplished within 90 days of the mid-March kick-off session. It is anticipated that the mini-murals will be installed by the end of June.

SEE PRIDE ON A-10

'Come Sail Away' on the Styx



(Courtesy photo for The Illinois Valley News)

Workers remove rubble that had accumulated over decades in the Caves during the '80s.

Styx is the Caves' friend

Judy Hoyle
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The National Park Service (NPS) is starting to create a management plan for the new preserve surrounding the Oregon Caves National Monument (ORCA).

Upper Cave Creek is one of the only known streams in the Klamath-Siskiyou region that disappears into a cave. Inside the Oregon Caves, it becomes the River Styx, the first and only underground river to be part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

An aspect of the NPS scoping process currently taking place until June 10, is asking the public whether 5 stream segments within the preserve should also be designated as "wild and scenic."

The segments include Upper and Lower Cave Creek, Lake Creek, which flows from Bigelow Lake, Panther Creek and No Name Creek. All are headwater tributaries

of the Illinois River.

In this centennial year for the National Park Service, it is appropriate to reflect on the many people and scientific and political processes that have helped create and protect our national parks for future generations.

One person who has been instrumental in protecting the River Styx and the formations in the Oregon Caves is Chuck Davis, who worked as the head guide at ORCA in 1984 and 1985.

At that time, the Portland based Oregon Caves Company was the concessioner for NPS. The company managed the Chateau and also conducted the cave tours.

Davis was partially responsible for changing the focus of the tours from "show and tell" to a more scientific, interpretive format.

He also alerted John Jarvis, the park biologist for ORCA and Crater Lake, to the fact that previous rock clearing work to open the cave for tours had allowed too much cold air in the caverns in the winter.

Davis observed that water

in the stalactites was freezing and the expanding ice was causing the formations to crumble. This resulted in doors being installed to reduce cold air flow to protect the caves.

Another important development in the 1980s was the removal of tons of rubble that had accumulated over decades from efforts to widen passageways for tours. Davis estimates seasonal park laborers accomplished \$65,000 worth of work hauling out loose rock using hand carts and Red Flyer wagons. They opened up passageways that had been covered for years. By January 1986, the excavation of the Passageway of the Whale was completed.

"I was interested in the restoration, but finding the source of the River Styx was my ultimate goal," said Davis.

One day, he and head ranger Ted Davis (no relation), donned overall, boots and helmets and searched the passageways. The stream flowed from a narrow hole at the bottom of a wall. Chuck climbed the wall and peered over the top to find a potential route through.

SEE STYX ON A-10

Seniors to inspire others to graduate



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

The IVHS Class of 2013 celebrate at graduation.

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior
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2002 Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) alumni Deanna Lea pitched IVHS Principal Jamie Ongman with the idea of parading graduating seniors through the halls of Evergreen Elementary and Lorna Byrne Middle School in their caps and gowns to inspire the younger children - and Ongman loved it!

So after lunch, May 26, this year's 75 graduates from IVHS will don their regalia and load onto school buses, first visiting Evergreen, and then descending upon Lorna Byrne, before finishing up at IVHS.

"There are multiple teachers who taught our seniors at these schools, so this will give our students a chance to thank these teachers," said IVHS office manager Robin Jackson. "There will

be informal chit-chatting in the hallways. Then later, we'll finish up at the high school."

photo's on Facebook, which inspired Lea to contact IVHS, to let Ongman know that the

“
...I'm excited for the graduates to experience this honor, and for the children that get to cheer them on as they look up to them and hopefully aspire to be wearing those cap and gowns themselves one day.”

Deanna Lea
Mom and IVHS alumni

On May 6, Lea had posted a series of pictures from another school's "Senior Walk" on Facebook. The pictures showed young children sitting along the hallways, with teachers and administrators in the doorways - all clapping as the seniors decked out in caps and gowns walked by with huge smiles on their faces. More than 130 people "liked" these

Valley's "online community responded very well to the idea."

"I'm so excited to hear that this is going to be happening!" Lea said. "And I'm so very pleased that this will most likely be a new tradition in our community. I'm excited for the graduates to experience this honor, and for the children that get to cheer them on as they look up

to them and hopefully aspire to be wearing those cap and gowns themselves one day."

Lea and her husband Spencer Lea have three young children and she noted that it's not too soon to start thinking about college.

"My daughter is in fourth grade, moving on to fifth, and already, she's looking at looking at classes that focus on college," Lea said. "I am so proud of her. I wasn't thinking about that kind of stuff when I was growing up here - I didn't take school that seriously. But now, these kids are encouraged to do that. Recognizing the achievement of the kids who are graduating will help motivate the students still in school."

Lea has lived in the Valley since she attended first grade. She went to Selma Elementary, Evergreen, then Lorna Byrne and finally IVHS.

SEE SENIOR ON A-11