

CAVETOWN . . .

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"Cavetown Underground" marks the end of Gina Angelique's tenure as lead educator for RiverStars. While Angelique works with circular leadership, empowering all RiverStars teachers with leadership opportunities, she designed the original programming which includes sequential arts, enrichment, arts integration and pedagogy, as well as the social justice component that is the trademark of RiverStars' works. Angelique was the founding artistic director of San Diego's Eveoke Dance Theatre and now directs the articultural programming of dancefarm.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity the Oregon Community Foundation has given the Illinois Valley to create a sustainable, high quality arts program for all our children. I remain optimistic that we can sustain what is fast becoming a beloved asset to our valley. Working with the RiverStars children has been wholly fulfilling, and they remind me everyday how all our choices as a society affect our children. I could not be more thrilled to pass the lead educator role to Ms. Gillette, who is a gifted teacher and fierce advocate for the arts."

Lindsey Gillette, a powerful proponent of community cooperation and unity will take on the lead educator role. Gillette, an accomplished performer and teaching artist, also works for Healthy U and is on the Cave Junction City Council. "The work we do in RiverStars gives the children of the Illinois Valley a voice. Often, we as adults assume what it's like to be a kid here in the Valley or we are prescriptive to what we think children here need. I hit a sharp learning curve when I started interacting with these children. I realized that I just needed to listen and they would tell me what they needed. Truthfully, they teach me. They give me hope."

Friday night's opening performance of "Cavetown Underground" will be followed by a gratitude reception for all who have helped create RiverStars Performing Arts including our partners: Three Rivers School District, Illinois Valley Community Development Organization and dancefarm. Cake will be shared and recognition awards will be given to RiverStars supporters. Saturday night's performance will be followed by a talkback with the audience. Student performers will answer questions from audience members and share anecdotes about what the rehearsal process is like and what being in RiverStars means to them. Follow RiverStars Performing Arts on Facebook.com/IVRiverStars.

DINNER ...

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I wanted to form a group to watch a video once a week, but my plan stalled over the food issue until, one evening I went to a movie and noticed, at the concession stand that the teeny tiniest bag of kids' popcorn was priced at \$5.75. POPCORN?

My mind skipped a beat and my heart did a flutter as the amazing truth sunk in. Somehow, when

I had not been paying attention that lowliest form of ingestible had turned into a gourmet food. The big buckets cost \$20 and movie-goers were scarfing them up. Popcorn had gone down the same route the simple cup of coffee took a decade earlier.

So I emailed my invitation as a Popcorn Only night, stopped at a farmers market, and purchased a big bag of popcorn. They even come in different flavors, just like coffee. (I recommend white cheddar.)

I am here to report that a Popcorn Only night works.

Popcorn fits the Foodies' preference for turning down unwanted edibles (you can ignore popcorn without guilt), the dieter's preference for abstinence and the hostesses' preference for no work.

So for those of you who still enjoy company but don't want the food hassle, think popcorn. It has its own moral adage: "Less is more."

The staff and volunteers of Healthy U present this column as part of their mission to promote health in the Illinois Valley.

LAUREL . . .

Continued from A-1

The cemetery's financial situation is so dire that their telephone line had to be disconnected because there was nobody employed to answer it and no money to pay for it anyhow. According to Webb, the cemetery currently owes around \$800 in past due internet and telephone bills.

Webb said that, "in the old days," many people donated to the cemetery, particularly the elderly, but those donations have all but disappeared, and as such, Laurel Cemetery has lost its primary source of income. With an average of eight burials a year, according to Webb, there is very little money to pay for services. "You can't get anybody doing anything for free," Webb said before continuing, "After a few years of cleaning and paying we kind of just ran out of money."

Webb said, on the subject of labor, that two years ago a group of volunteers, who were maintaining the cemetery at the time, took unauthorized donations from businesses who

regularly donated to the cemetery. Allegedly they used the money to purchase tools. Those funds never materialized in the cemetery's coffers and as such were lost until the businesses were ready to make their next donation. Holly Warner, one of the members of the voluntary crew, spoke on behalf of the group by saying, "None of that is true ... We took our own equipment."

In addition to a lack of significant income, the last two clerks who had worked in the cemetery's office supposedly did a poor job at allocating what little funds they had available. "We were trying to start a website," Webb said, "The clerks we had in there were paying out a few hundred bucks a month plus \$400-800 for a clerk a month. The money goes fast." One of the two clerks was reportedly quite disorganized and then one day suddenly disappeared. Webb said that he, as a result of this disappearance, has no idea how to access the website because the employee left without leaving any instructions or other essential information.

Laurel Cemetery has also been the victim of repeated burglaries and vandalism over the past few years. "They kicked the doors in, broke the windows out and they've taken everything," Webb said, summarizing the situation. One of the burglars even stole the cemetery's filing cabinets which were full of important records and another made off with several boxes of old mail.

The cemetery also used to have a bathroom but vandals broke the toilet and kicked the walls in. Another group of vandals, who were apparently short on common decency, are suspected to have kicked over six to eight gravestones on the night of their friend's funeral. A great many empty alcoholic beverage containers were found scattered around the cemetery in the morning.

To deal with the repeated vandalisms and burglaries, a live-in security guard has been employed in exchange for a plot of land to park his trailer.

"I think it's just the era," Webb explained, in reference to the apparently falling popularity of cemeteries, "Without picking a spot and burying, there's no income. And then the economy is so bad nobody wants to donate."



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All visits are confidential. Our Cave Junction office, located at 102 S. Redwood Highway, will begin providing services in April 2017. We accept most insurance plans and offer services on a sliding fee scale for those who are uninsured or cannot pay. Our women's health nurse practitioner will be accepting appointments the third Thursday of every month from 8:30-3:00.

Our immunization nurse will be available the first Thursday of every month for vaccines and travel consultations from 8:30-3:30.

Join us as we expand our services to our clients in Cave Junction.

To schedule your appointment, call our Grants Pass Office at (541)474-5329



Jennifer Kowalczyk, WHNP

Walk in appointments are welcome with first priority given to scheduled appointments.

Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Cave Junction Farmers Market co-host the 1st Annual

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