



**TRY
ROSIE'S
PIZZA
By-The-Slice
TODAY**

415-0517

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

SATURDAY 9-1
AT GRANTS PASS
GROWERS' MARKET

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Weather Watch

Cave Junction



Thursday, June 1
Mostly Sunny
High -- 72 Low -- 47



Friday, June 2
Sunny
High -- 77 Low -- 51



Saturday, June 3
Mostly Sunny
High -- 79 Low -- 48



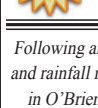
Sunday, June 4
Partly Cloudy
High -- 74 Low -- 47



Monday, June 5
Sunny
High -- 80 Low -- 50



Tuesday, June 6
Sunny
High -- 89 Low -- 56



Wednesday, June 7
Sunny
High -- 89 Low -- 56

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

May	High	Low
19	84.1	40.4
20	84.2	45.5
21	83.7	45.8
22	95.8	49.3
23	96.5	51.9
24	76.0	54.6
25	79.1	45.1

May Rain: 1.55" YTD Rain: 114.86"

Illinois Valley News, Cave Junction, Ore. Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Josephine County, birth place of CASA

Anita R. Savio
IVN Contributing Writer

In 2016, 445 Josephine County children spent at least one day in foster care. And at any given time, one in 50 children is being fostered. In each such case, the child finds themself virtually helpless at the center of a confusing and ever changing constellation of agencies and service providers: Child Protective Service workers, ongoing case workers, permanency specialists, psychiatrists, therapists, medical providers, lawyers, judges, and so on. Each of these providers operates under a narrow and legality-bound set of rules that can result in tunnel vision.

Who is there to advocate broadly and solely on behalf of the child's best interests? That's where the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer program comes in.

"CASAs are [volunteers] sworn in by the judge as legal parties to the child's case," said Director Sanne Specht of the Josephine County CASA program. "They protect a child's physical health by alerting the court to medical or dental conditions that may have gone unnoticed or undetected. They can save a child's emotional health by recommending professional counseling. They coordinate with teachers, doctors, therapists, parents and/or foster parents, as well as child welfare workers. CASAs interface with anyone and everyone who can provide enrichment for that child's life."

In Oregon, all parties to a case of child abuse or neglect have their own lawyer. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has a lawyer who represents the DHS point of view in court. The parents of the child have their lawyer, appointed by the state if without sufficient funds to hire their own. And the child in foster care has their own lawyer, appointed by the state. So why is a CASA needed? Specht explained that the child's attorney is required by law to advocate for what the child wants, and that child often wants nothing more than to return to their family, no matter the abuse or neglect it experiences there. The CASA volunteer, on the other hand, is not hobbled by this adversary system.

The CASA program was started by a judge in the mid-70s, who knew the adversary situation was not providing a clear picture of what was best for the child.

Studies show that, when there is a CASA involved, children are 98 percent less likely to be abused.

We in Josephine County can be proud: We were the pilot program for the entire state of Oregon, and have nurtured a credible program since 1985.

But we can also hang our collective heads in shame. Federal and state mandates require that all children in child welfare cases be appointed a CASA. Yet of the 300 children currently in foster care in Josephine County, only about 120 have a CASA assigned to them. For the entire Illinois Valley, we only have one CASA volunteer.

The Josephine County CASA program was previously supported by the county, but as county finances dwindled, the program had to seek other sources of funding. Currently, 80 percent of funding comes from philanthropic grants and fundraisers. The remaining 20 percent comes from the state.

The need for CASAs is becoming greater. Twenty percent more children entered the foster system in 2016. Specht attributes this to the level of abuse and neglect getting worse.

"It's the cumulative effect of lack of services, lack of policing, drugs. It's the perfect storm."

She noted that the state of Oregon paid \$150 million in lawsuits related foster children in 2016. Yet it would cost just \$15 million to fully fund every CASA program across the state. None of the children related to those lawsuits had a CASA.

Specht emphasized the rewarding nature of the work. She related the story of one meeting she attended, the purpose of which was to find a new foster placement for a teen that had had a number of previous placements. There were multiple service providers at the meeting: caseworkers, lawyers and the boy's CASA. At one point the boy pointed to his CASA volunteer and said, "That's the only person who's been with me through all of this."

In another case, a CASA was assigned to a teen boy. When they first met, the boy looked at his CASA and asked, "How much are they paying you?" The CASA replied, "No one's paying me. I'm doing this as a volunteer, because you're important." The kid's jaw dropped.

The requirements to be a CASA are as follows: Be 21 or older, complete a background check, provide references, participate in an interview and undergo 30 hours of pre-service training. The CASA must be available, with advance notice, for court appearances. However, many CASAs who work full-time find that their employers are very amenable to providing time off for this purpose. The program also asks that the CASA be willing to commit to their assigned case until the case is closed, which is usually about two years.

CASAs receive ongoing training and support by professional staff.

The program offers orientations for those wishing to learn more about the program. Interested persons may contact Sanne Specht at 541-474-5437 or sspecht@josephinecountycasa.org.



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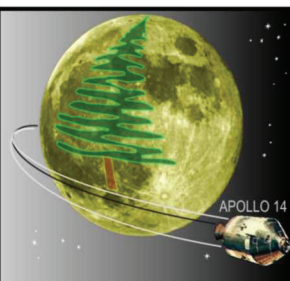
Oregon's secret firefighters of World War Two

FREE community event
JUNE 3
(Saturday)

Smokejumper Museum
Four miles south of Cave Junction

www.highway199.org
Info: 541 592-4316





SAME DAY - SAME LOCATION

Apollo 14
MOON TREE RUN
www.highway199.org

Dedication Event Honoring the Triple Nickles

8:00 -11:00 **Firefighter Breakfast Fundraiser**
Adults 6.00 Seniors 5.00 Kids 3.00

8:00 Moon Tree Run Registration

9:00 **Moon Tree Run begins**, Children activities and museum tours begin

9:00 Live music: Tim & Michelle play classic songs of the World War Two era

9:10 **Japanese Balloon Bomb Attack 1945**

9:40 **Oregon Black Pioneers**

10:10 **The 555th: Black Airborne Firefighters in the Northwest**

11:15 Speakers at bandstand

12:00 **Dedication of Oregon State historic marker**

ANOTHER FAMILY EVENT
After the 555th Dedication
BIRDS AND BREWS 1:00-6:00 SELMA, OREGON
Live music, youth activities, root beer and ice cream for kids, handcrafted brew for adults, Location: Siskiyou Field Institute (14 mi north of the 555th Dedication event) www.highway199.org