

# City undergoes staffing changes, new faces and places

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After 10 1/2 of working as Cave Junction's utility clerk, Becky Patton has moved onward and upward into the city recorder position. The vacancy she left behind was recently filled by Deanna Rodriguez, a longtime resident of the Illinois Valley.

The city's utility clerk mainly deals with utility bills, like water and sewer, but also assists the public by answering questions, picking up the phone and helping the municipal court with administrative tasks.

"I'm only on my second week and I'm loving it—it's fantastic," Rodriguez said, happy that the job was as agreeable as it appeared. Previously, she worked for Umpqua Bank in Cave Junction. She heard about the position from someone who used to work for the city. Rodriguez feels that working for the city will be the perfect long-term career and plans to stay there until she retires.

Although Rodriguez has briefly moved to Southern California twice

in the past, she has spent the vast majority of her life in the Illinois Valley. "I always come back because it's my home," Rodriguez said, theorizing as to why she never leaves for long.

Currently, Rodriguez and her husband are primarily working toward owning the house they live in with their four children. Her immediate family spends the majority of their time hanging out at home but they also enjoy going to the rivers, hiking and spending as much quality time as they can together. That is, when they can fit it into their busy schedules. "I'm just happy here in my little town; I don't need to go anywhere anymore," Rodriguez said, dedicatedly resigned to her jam-packed lifestyle.

Rodriguez's three brothers and parents also live in the Illinois Valley though she, in good humor, admits that she "stole" her husband from California. The rest of her family, including, aunts, uncles and cousins, mostly live in Grants Pass though the majority of them originally came from Cave Junction.

Patton, also born and raised

in the Illinois Valley with a large portion of her life spent here, bought a house in 2007. At the time, when she applied for the utility clerk position, she was working as a home inspector. Although Patton admitted that she "wasn't really looking" for a full-time office position at the time, as she was happily working for herself, she applied anyway and got the job.

Patton took on the role of city recorder May 1, and, over the last 10 1/2 years, worked very closely with the previous city recorder. Although the recorder's duties aren't completely foreign to her, she estimates that it will take another six months of effort to feel comfortable with her new position. In the meantime, Patton has more than enough assistance from the rest of team to make things run smoothly and learn as she goes.

As if learning the new position was not enough, she is simultaneously training Rodriguez in her new role. "She's basically teaching me everything I know and she's amazing at it," Rodriguez said, grateful to have a good teacher.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Deanna Rodriguez awaits your arrival at the city's water desk.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

A Jeep Cherokee was trying to beat the heat Monday, July 31, near the second bridge.

## The Archive Zone: by Hillary Mohr from the Illinois Valley News archives

Freeze! Drop what you are doing! It is time for lions, ghost calls, exes who don't live in Texas and washing machine thieves in this week's Police Blotter Archive Zone. The Date: July 28, 1999. Location: Cave Junction and the Illinois Valley.

### Sunday, July 18

\*Assist the public was requested at Jubilee Park after a woman and her two sons were locked inside the park by an unknown person. \*Harassment was reported in the 200 block of Kerby Mainline Road by a man who said that his neighbor harasses him at night, does damage to his property, and causes his dogs to bark. \*Assist the public was requested in the vicinity of Laurel Road and North Old Stage Road after a man walking his dog blocked the road, shook his cane and yelled obscenities at a woman.

### Monday, July 19

\*A roaring lion in the 27000 block of Hwy. 199 was reported as keeping a man from sleeping. The owner of the lion was warned about the noise ordinance. \*Two 911 hang-up calls were reported

from two pay phones in the 200 block of West Watkins. Deputies found the phone booths empty and the phones hanging off the hook.

### Wednesday, July 21

\*Theft of a washing machine was reported on West River Street by a woman who said that she has proof of ownership of the appliances. \*A man that was walking by Kenyon's Grocery said that two men in a black pickup robbed him of \$290.

### Saturday, July 24

\*A noisy lion was the subject of a noise complaint in the 200 block of Pinewood Way. He complainant said that the noise has been ongoing for the past two weeks. \*Criminal mischief was reported in the 3000 block of Rockydale Road after a woman said her ex-landlord, and ex-employer as well, dumped garbage on her property and threatened her and her husband. \*A man in the 9000 block of Thompson Creek Road said that he was slugged in the face by another man.