



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Most week's that I write a column, it's usually about something that is not a pleasant topic - bums, politicians or the sort. But there are the occasions that I like to show my pride in our community and this upcoming weekend is one of them.

As always, the I.V. Lions Labor Day Festival makes me all nostalgic. I rolled into town seven years ago during the week of the event, and it was my first time meeting many of you. I always have fun and look forward to it. I hope many of you will get out and enjoy the fruit of the the Lions Club labor.

The Tuff Trucks is always a highlight for me, that and the beer garden! Then the weekend ends for me with the anti-climatic Harley raffle that I never win, but I don't mind. If you have not purchased yours yet you better get on it, there are only 400 tickets sold.

This year we have a local jam band called Takilma playing Sunday night and we also will have a chance to see a local favorite, Dawna Crocker sing. And on a somewhat sad note, it will be the last time for a while we will get to see Rosie Wittman aka Silas Wolf perform before she moves to Seattle.

Monday morning the parade is a must, the library usually has a pretty good float, so I am curious to see what they do this year.

So, unless you are going to be fighting fires this weekend, I hope you make some time to come out and enjoy the fine folks that make up this amazing community. Thank you for picking up this week's paper, enjoy! djm

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com.

POLICY ON LETTERS:

'*Illinois Valley News*' encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

EPA, whats in a name?

Should the EPA become the Environmental Pollution Agency or remain the Environmental Protection Agency? Do we really care about human and environmental health, or not?

This is a question our federal representatives face. The Trump Administration and Republicans in DC are promoting the pro-Pollution alternative.

Trumps' 2018 budget proposes cutting EPA funding by 30% and staff by 20%. It also proposes compromising the air we breathe and the water we drink by cutting 50 programs that protect these essential resources.

Meanwhile, the GOP-controlled Congress plans to adjust EPA policy such that regulations become the cheapest for corporations rather than the best for protecting public and environmental health. They also plan to instruct agencies to prioritize the interests of industry (meaning profits and greed) over protection of consumers and workers.

Amazingly, even now Trump and the Congressional cabal of integrity-challenged and self-esteem lacking representatives are dedicated to the destruction of human and

environmental health and the promotion of short-term profits and greed.

It's not clear what Trump and Congressional representatives think they and their families will breath or drink in the future. Paradoxically, or is that merely 'insanely,' they seem intent on poisoning their own families - all for short-term profits.

Trisha Vigil Medford

Public Safety

I would like to express some topics of concern in recent articles of the *Illinois Valley News*.

In regards to Public Safety I would like to announce and invite all parties interested to attend the I.V. Community Watch Service Group (IVCW) Elections Meeting hosted on Aug. 31, Thursday, at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in CJ. We are formalizing our team effort and outreach program to network "rally" our I.V. Community around Public Safety.

This dovetails me into a few issues. First of importance is to announce the implementation of the Immediate Alert Notification System for smart phones. We (IVCW) are using the www.GroupMe.com app and Facebook Messenger to text important details including photos and video, in real time, on fires, large emergencies and crime incidences. The I.V. Fire Department has used this public media system for over 2 years now, and with its CERT members, to help enhance communication in directing resources to emergency incidences. We are looking for lead people in neighborhoods to subscribe.

Item two on my list is the CJ Council's two Workshops for the contract on the sheriff

deputy patrol. The two forums included about 37 Cave Junction members in all, is my count. The workshops created a good bit of dialog with an interactive survey posted on priorities. As with previous years there was only a public comment period, during the council meeting, for live citizen input. I commend the council for engaging the process, a step up from previous years. The top priority is the crime at night, targeting the drug houses, and nightly sting operations or saturation patrols. Although better, the City Council is still at a distance from being a representative government where substantial matters are voted on by city residents. This includes the contract's language, itself, which, at this point leads to protect "indemnify" the county and the sheriff's office on failure of performance.

In addition, in the contract, the city council can only make non-binding requests on service specific matters, like sting operations. Also the contract is co-partnered with the JoCo Commissioners, the Sheriff's Department (the Sheriff), and the Oregon Sheriff's Association (a nongovernmental, private body). There is also the Academy in Salem, OPOA - Oregon Police Officers Association, and the influence of PERS - not stated in the contract. These, unfortunately, all work to disassociate citizen involvement, like neighborhood watch, and other integrated public safety solution in favor of excessive professionalism, high cost, and the "Corporatization" (Goggle the word) of our public services.

These issues were addressed "too late" with our previous Sheriff "Gilbertson" in 2013-14, who was educating himself and steering away from the aforementioned overbearing influences to return to a more constitutionally center common

law (simplified) administration of the sheriff's department - and in line with his oath of office. Gilbertson's efforts here significantly contributed to his popularity in the Illinois Valley during the 2014 election where he received a majority. I don't fault the current sheriff Dave Daniel as his orientation is far outside of the law studies of his predecessor and the tradition role of the sheriff and his powers, which is summoned and conveyed to him by the constituency - the People of the County. If anyone would like to take me to task on this, they can visit me, and our law study group. We welcome any sheriff, attorney, or Oregon BAR associate, which is a private club by the way. So in my view, until these matters are squarely researched, and address in public, we can only expect non-committal compromises and varying performance, unless we can come up with about 20 million annually.

The other issue, now that I don't have room for, is our economy and the green rush - the RR5 commercial growing of cannabis, and the profiteering. What is the expense of doing business in our community? What are the impacts to the environment, our diverse social structure, and how that ties in with crime, and public safety?

Where do people secure the right to impact the long-range health of a local economy? Are we again at another cycle of "Boom and Bust"?

How can we create a constructive fact based conversation with all parties present? This is where I want to go for my next shot at an article.

You're welcome to contact me,

**Guenter Ambron,
Cave Junction,
541-415-1929 or
ivwatch541@gmail.com**

Obituaries

Richard "Dick" Armstead, 82,

Dick died Aug. 19, 2017 at home. Dick was born May 26, 1935 in Bellingham, Wash. He is survived by his wife, Joyce of 59 years; daughter, Kathy (Brian) Ewing; sons, Ken (Sherri) and Keith Armstead; three grandsons; three granddaughters; two great-grandsons; and one great-granddaughter. A sister, Barbara Neher and brothers, Mike, Bruce and Pat Armstead, and Les, who preceded him in death. He was a log scaler when first moving to the area in 1967, scaling logs all around the area for the next 10 years, later driving logging trucks among other things. He was a former member of the local Lions Club, and helped to start the first Labor Day Festival. After retiring from long haul trucking in 1996, they enjoyed traveling across country on their motorcycle. A Memorial Service will be held Sept. 16 at 2 p.m., at the Assembly of God Church in Cave Junction

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Save the date

Aug. 31

On Thursday, at 6 p.m., Aug. 31, Community Watch Elections at Wild River Pizza, in CJ, The I.V. Community Watch Service Group will host an elections meeting. With free pizza and Root Beer. Includes a raffle for 2-way radios and other items. The Immediate Alert Notification System currently has 40 members, with its branch out communities of: Holland Loop/Dick George, Takilma, O'Brien, Ken Rose/West Side, and Cave Junction. We are formalizing our effort to Network Neighborhoods, Watch Groups, and communities to address crime, fire preparedness, and public safety. Contact - Guenter 541-415-1929

Sept. 1

Selma Center Drive - In Movies Friday, Sept. 1, "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship" rated

PG-13, \$5 per person/\$20 per car-Gates Open @ 8:30pm - Movie Starts @ 9:30pm, reasonable \$ concessions 18255 Redwood Hwy^

Sept. 13

AWANA starts Sept. 13 for children PK - Sixth grade at Community Bible Church, 113 S. Caves Ave. CJ, Wednesdays at 6:15 - 8 p.m. Registration will be the 13th so come a little bit early! Children must be registered by their parents or legal guardians. There will be stories, music, games and often light snacks. AWANA will meet every Wednesday night unless there is no school. This is a church sponsored program regardless of their religious affiliation. At the same time there will be a free parenting class for all parents, grandparents & guardians.

Continuing

*Illinois Valley Community Watch Meeting every Monday from 5 - 6 p.m. at Wild River Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy. - Cave Junction. A Public Safety Outreach Campaign effort with all I.V. Neighborhood Watch Groups - representatives, including businesses and churches, and support for anyone wishing to start a neighborhood watch. Includes a 2-way hand held radio program briefing from 4:20 - 4:50 p.m. Contact Guenter - 541-415-1929 / ivwatch541@gmail.com.

*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store: Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citizen to volunteer at the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Volunteers are needed in the Cave Junction Substation to provide

support service hours to the public. Applications are available at the Merlin Substation, 100 Acorn Street, Merlin, 541-474-5135, and on-line at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer%20Application.Mar%202014.pdf>.

*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively addressing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665 or visit cjp patrol.org.

*Committee Meeting STATE OF JEFFERSON Josephine County 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Black Forest Restaurant,

Grants Pass and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction.

*Come join the Cave Junction Lions Club at River Valley Restaurant, at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We are a co-ed club and are always looking for community minded people that are dedicated, hard working, whether physically limited or not and most of all, like to have fun.

We host the Classic Car Show in late June and Turkey Bingo in early November. So if you like to have fun and like to help make great things happen, to provide glasses, hearing aids, scholarships and support for our community and so much more.

Come by and see what we do or give us a call, 541-592-9243 Nina Horsley, president.

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