



Her life in the Valley of Riches

by Laura Mancuso, editor

It is easy to get caught up in all the problems to be found in the Valley when you are in the news business. Issues like

code violations, meth use and crime, homelessness, and so many others can be found in our local paper.

But today, I want to focus on something wonderful in the Valley and that is all the amazing volunteers we have.

I am so pleased that Tina Wright (known for assisting Kelly Thibodeaux with fiddle lessons at Evergreen) decided to be a volunteer site coordinator at Evergreen Elementary School for the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program. She has already talked me into volunteering for one hour a week. For those of you that know me, I used to be a first-grade teacher before moving to the Valley. I have really missed reading with children; it is such a rewarding experience to help a child read and develop a love for books. If you would like to volunteer 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays – Thursdays go to the website www.getSMARToregon.org or call 541-734-5628 for

more information.

Other volunteers that amaze me are the Cave Junction mayor and city councilors that donate their time to make the city a better place. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to hold a volunteer position like this and is often a thankless job.

I could go on and on about all the volunteers in our Valley, because they are some of the main reasons that I love living here.

Even as I sit in my office writing this article in Downtown Cave Junction at night, I feel very safe, because if I have any problem at all I know Jimmy Evans with CJ Patrol is just a phone call away. So, I hope you will join me in thanking all of our Valley volunteers today!

Enjoy this week's paper.

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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 com-

mentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

Reader wonders where the chamber was

Of all the groups that did not weigh in on Grocery Outlet, what happened to the chamber of commerce?

Cary Riley
Cave Junction

Reader says less store and more trees

In return for letting the Grocery Outlet put a store at the Junction of Caves Hwy and 199, they should create a green space around the big trees that are there at the front and along the fence to Shop Smart and along the back with enough room around them; not paved to keep them healthy. They should save the one big tree with an island of green around it.

A lot of people like the idea of this store. But

with large stores we get more litter. A recycling station in town would be very helpful. We don't need their big size store. We want the smaller one with a green space in front and save our beautiful old trees to keep the country in rural America.

Mrs. Peno
Cave Junction

Reader is thankful for others

I'd like to thank Nicole Resenbrink for her recent "Healthy U News" column in last

week's edition of the *I.V. News*. When I was in high school I realized the ideas of "John Wayne" rugged individualism and "survival of the fittest" were deeply flawed ones. From driving our cars on roads built by others to buying food produced by others to receiving a favor or hand-up or encouragement at a crucial time in our lives we, NONE of us, do anything all by ourselves. Even the most dedicated loners need others.

The "survival of the fittest" myth evokes this

image of the strongest and smartest individual rising like cream to the top of the species. The reality of our existence is that to be entirely alone or cast out of the group is to die. It is impossible for any one human being to do everything needed for their survival let alone their upbringing, education, or advancement. Even in death it's others who help us for a final time.

Thanks for the reminder Nicole!
Iris Chinook
Cave Junction

JCF Josephine County FOUNDATION
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Illinois Valley High School
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

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Sign up online to reserve your spot
www.jcfserverg.org
(limited appointments available)

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Save the date

Feb. 3
*Oregon Humanities presents "Talking about Dying" a community conversation Feb. 3, 2018 starting at 10 a.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River Street, Cave Junction, 541-592-6139. This Conversation Project program provides an opportunity for participants to reflect on what stories and influences shape their thinking about death and dying and to hear perspectives and ideas from fellow community members. Sponsored by Illinois Valley Family Coalition and Clear Creek Family Practice. Refreshments will be provided.

Feb. 10
*16th annual Siskiyou Film Festival Southern Oregon's largest environmental film festival, a KS Wild Production.
Feb. 10 at Grants Pass High School, Performing Arts Center Contact Allee Gustafson, Siskiyou Filmfest Organizer -alleepgus@gmail.com 541-218-8690 for more information.

Continuing
*Evergreen Elementary school is looking for SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) volunteers. The program will run Tuesdays through Thursdays and volunteers are asked to come to Evergreen around 11:30 a.m. and will be out at 12:45 p.m. To learn more about the SMART program you can call 541-734-5628 or visit the website at www.getSMARToregon.org.

*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.

*Your public library has activities happening every week! New Storytime reader, Melanie, has crafts and stories for kids of all ages Saturdays at 12 noon. Families at Play baby-parent group is for babies the first Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Early literacy skills are taught within a thirty-minute storytime of songs, bounces, and reading, followed by a half-hour of play and chat time. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4770. I.V. Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

*The Sheriff's Office Substation in Cave Junction is now open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 10 to 2. Volunteers are still needed to staff additional days. Appli-

cations are available at the substation or 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.

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