

CJ mourns death of former mayor



(Courtesy photo for the Illinois Valley News)

Carl Jacobson Jr. at the flag display during the annual Lions Club Labor Day celebration.

“Small towns are great because of people with hearts like Jacobson ... “

Ryan Nolan, former city recorder of Cave Junction

By Dan Mancuso
IVN Staff

People knew the man with kind eyes and a bolo for different reasons but everyone knew him as Mayor Jacobson.

Carl Jacobson Jr., 74, died in his sleep the morning of Sunday, Feb. 25. A viewing will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., March 2, at Illinois Valley Funeral Directors. A graveside service will be March 3, at 11 a.m. at Laurel Cemetery, with a memorial service following at 2 p.m. at the Kerby Belt Building.

Jacobson, a husband, father and grandfather was also a retired house painter and over-the-road truck driver. Jacobson was employed at both Rough and Ready Lumber Company and Cabax mill before he went to work in the New Mexico oil fields. Eventually Jacobson landed in Tennessee to be closer to his daughter. After 14 years Jacobson was ready to retire and found his way back to the Valley.

Jacobson was well-known in the community due in part to his many civic endeavors. As a member of the Illinois Valley Lions Club since 1972, he served as secretary, treasurer and Labor Day booth chair. In addition to the Lions Club, Jacobson was a 32-year Mason. He served as commander of the American Legion, Glenn Morrison Post No. 70 in Cave Junction. Jacobson also volunteered at the Illinois Valley Senior Thrift Store, when his wife, Betty was the manager.

Jacobson was elected mayor three times. The first time as a sitting councilman he stepped up when no one else wanted the job. One goal Jacobson had was to try to get some younger faces involved in city government. According to Ryan Nolan, former city recorder, Jacobson

encouraged then Councilor Daniel Dalegowski and supported him as someone he could see was intelligent and who tried to be fair, offering him opportunities to be involved and to prepare him to be the next mayor.”

Nolan also said “Carl also sought input from Dan Bosch and respected his thoughts on issues that the city council had to deliberate on.” It appeared to Nolan that one of the things Jacobson enjoyed most about the job of mayor was dealing with elementary school children and the “If I Were Mayor” contest. “He [Jacobson] was super proud that Tristan Fiske, as a middle school student, won the statewide contest. Nolan went on to say Jacobson thoroughly enjoyed talking about the city and hearing children’s ideas about what Cave Junction needed. Jacobson made sure the Skate Park design was largely based on input from students. “Carl definitely helped younger faces get involved in Cave Junction city government.”

In addition, Nolan recalled that Jacobson was always quick to help people. “Small towns are great because of people with hearts like Jacobson. He was honest, sincere and human. When people came to him with problems or requests for help, he often jumped right in and took care of things with his own hands. The longer I knew him the more I liked him. He really was a good guy with a big heart for his town and all of the people in it ... he was human and had made some mistakes - some really big - but he owned them and tried to do right.”

Mayor Daniel Dalegowski served with Jacobson as a councilman for six years. Dalegowski found Jacobson to be kind, open minded and committed to service. Jacobson was known to listen and respect the intuitional knowledge of city staff. “He was always sure to honor those who had sacrificed in service to their

county” Dalegowski said, and added, “I have not encountered an individual more committed to the ceremonies and traditions of veterans.”

Jacobson liked to hear the opinions of his constituents, he was happy to see them in the audience. He commented often that people shouldn’t “complain about things if they don’t vote.”

City Councilor Dan Bosch also served with Jacobson for two years. Bosch and Jacobson often clashed in meetings but were able to leave it in council chambers “I am very saddened to learn of the passing of Carl Jacobson, I really loved the guy.”

According to both Mayor Dalegowski and Councilor Bosch, Jacobson’s passion for those who came before us showed in his attention to Laurel Cemetery, often organizing cleanup events there.

Jacobson’s other special interest was Jubilee Park, “He [Jacobson] kept a close eye on the activities there, and had the contract deputy’s number on speed-dial,” Dalegowski said. “It was an honor to work with Carl on behalf of the city and it is only now that I serve in the same position that he did that I understand the intense responsibility that he shouldered for six years. He truly sacrificed to work towards making Cave Junction a better place for current and future citizens. We have lost a very important member of our community, but we know that his example has been a part of shaping the current and future leadership of the city of Cave Junction.”

During a 2011 interview with the Grants Pass *Daily Courier*, Jacobson showed his appreciation after being elected mayor. “You need to show people you appreciate that they chose you. It’s the right thing to do,” he said.

Valley services to be found at the Senior Expo

By Laura Mancuso
IVN Editor

Are you a senior wondering what services can be found in the Valley?

If so, you don’t want to miss the Senior Expo slated for Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the I.V. Senior Center, 520 E. River St.

“The I.V. Senior Center is thrilled to host this interactive event for our local seniors so they can learn about services available right here in the Valley,” said I.V. Senior Center Board President Jean Shubert. “Several local service groups are working together to make this free event possible.”

The Senior Expo is being coordinated by Illinois Valley Senior Connections which is an Action Collaborative under the I.V. 20/20 Community Vision and Strategic Plan working toward meeting goals for seniors. Members of this team include I.V. Wellness Resources, Healthy U, I.V. Community Development Organization (IVCanDO), I.V. Family Coalition (IVFC), United Community Action Network (UCAN) and the I.V. Senior Center. Agencies with a mission of service to seniors are invited to join.

“We’re trying to bring services, education and awareness to our seniors,” said IVFC Executive Director Karen Yanase.

This special event will include educational booths, demonstrations, workshops and classes.

Not only will there be health information and screenings from Siskiyou Community Health Center, Clear Creek Family Practice and the Eye Care Group, there will be organizations there to tell you where to go for help such as American Medical Response, I.V. Fire Department, Mercy Flights, Silver Pages and Community Emergency Response Team.”

In addition, interactive booths will be available from I.V. Garden Club, Master Gardeners, and JoCo Master Preservers and if you’re looking for volunteer opportunities or clubs to be involved with, come talk to members from the I.V. Lions, SMART (reading at Evergreen Elementary), American Legion, I.V. Library, Rotary Club or the Embroiderers Guild of America.

“We will be discussing the nutrition value of onions, distributing recipes, and giveaway packets of dehydrated onions for gifts along with having a pressure canner gauge tester at our table,” said Hazel Griffith, from JoCo Master Food Preservers and who is also on the board of IVFC.

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Officials address issue of mentally ill homeless

Mary West
IVN Contributing Writer

According to Josephine County Circuit Judge Pat Wolke, “The problem of the homeless mentally ill in Josephine County is big and is getting bigger. Things need to change.” And most people would agree.

In an interview with the *Illinois Valley News*, the judge, president of National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) of Southern Oregon, Andra Hollenbeck and Sheriff Dave Daniel discussed the reasons underlying the issue, as well as the efforts of local officials to address them.

Wolke says because of weak laws in Oregon regarding forced treatment, most of the homeless mentally ill people in the area fall into the cracks of the system. “Only two ways exist for these people to be forced to get treatment legally: one is civil commitment, and the other is assisted outpatient treatment. The laws just don’t work very well. You can report the person to the pre-commitment investigator; however, the criteria for civil

commitment are very vague. They stipulate that people can be civilly committed either if they’re a danger to themselves or others or if they’re unable to provide for their basic needs.

“Unfortunately, because of the vagueness of the definitions, the court of appeals has interpreted those phrases very narrowly. ‘Danger to self’ means they’re just about ready to commit suicide and have the means to do it. ‘Unable to provide for basic needs’ indicates they’re about ready to die because of their inability to get basic needs met.

“If they happen to commit a crime, the Josephine County Mental Health Court will be available to them. This option is for people with serious mental illness, which usually means schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, and it is sometimes offered as an alternative to going to jail or prison. Mental Health Court involves forced treatment such as medications.

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