

Letters to the editor



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

I am a glutton for punishment and I proved that yet again last week. On March 1, Laura and I purchased the

Upper Rogue Independent (URI) based in Eagle Point. The paper covers Trail, Butte Falls, Shady Cove, Prospect, Eagle Point and White City.

Starting this week Laura will be taking over the day-to-day operations for the *Illinois Valley News* (IVN). I will be spending most of my time in Eagle Point, getting that paper up and running. For the most part you will notice little change. It's going to be hard for us until we figure it out, but in the end we can share resources and make sure both communities have a local paper that is engaging and gives the readers what they want.

You will see some new columns and articles that come from the URI, one of which has been running the past few weeks called "Crawlies with Cri." Christy Solo has been published multiple times in *National*

Geographic and other national magazines. Her love of science should pair well with our readers.

But at the end of the day what this does for the IVN is take some financial pressure off. It also puts some money into the pockets of Valley residents. Our current bookkeeper and graphics person will also work on the URI from here, thus putting more money into the local economy. It has always been my plan to build a small newspaper group whose headquarters would be here in the Illinois Valley. With this acquisition we are now one step closer. I have my eye on two other papers, only time will tell if they are meant to be.

Residents in small communities need to stick together and community newspapers need to do the same.

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

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

Sleeping is not a crime

Dear editor,

The article on homelessness and the intentions of Josephine County officials is outrageous. I don't know if you are aware, but the homeless of Grants Pass are consistently abused by police who enforce ordinances that prohibit sleeping – a basic human right. Homeless people are thrown into jail for sleeping regularly. The crime they are charged with is "trespassing." This article in-

furiates me because these officials are not interested in helping the mentally ill. These officials are interested only in controlling the homeless population. It is alarming that the mental health laws in Oregon are referred to as "weak." Do these officials intend to manipulate the mental health laws for their own war against homeless people? This is pure evil. Someone needs to do something. This is oppression.

Megan Watson
Grants Pass

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.

Fun for the entire family

8th Annual

**Illinois Valley Little League
Chili Feed & Cook-Off**
Saturday March 10th 2018
Lorna Byrne Middle School, CJ
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Entertainment by Jay Barley Band
and other surprise guests

Silent Auction
Live Dessert Auction



Team Hoyt

Dad's been behind him for 65 marathons.

DEVOTION
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ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date

March 7, 14, 21 April 4 & 11

Seeds to Supper, Call to register OSU Extension 541-476-6613. A beginner's guide to low-cost vegetable gardening. The Josephine County Master Gardeners are presenting a FREE series of six gardening courses on how to raise your own vegetables. Learn how to garden on a budget. Participants receive a free gardening book and more.

Course topics: garden site & planning/soil development/planting/caring for the garden/harvesting and using garden bounty. Offered in partnership with Oregon Food Bank and Josephine County Master Gardeners.

March 8

March 8, 1 p.m. Water Rights and Water Quality 101. Learn about your rights to water, and what you can do to protect our water resources. Come with your questions for the Water Master and Water Quality Specialist. Free food and discussion at CJ's Wild River Pizza in the meeting room. Organized by IV Conservation District.

March 10

Senior Expo to be held Saturday, March 10 from 10 - 2 at the I.V. Senior Center. 520 E. River Street. Come hear presentations, visit booths, participate in health screenings/demos and have soup and dessert.

March 12

Monday, March 12, from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., at Wild River Pizza, CJ - The Illinois Valley Community Watch (Service Group) will host their Committee Elections followed by a Public Assembly to convey and confirm its drafted 'Service Charter.' I.V. Community Watch is a representative network of neighborhood watch groups to support safety, crime watch, assist the formation of new watch groups, and educate for emergency preparedness. A neighbor to neighbor outreach program. Free pizza and root beer for newcomers. All welcome. Contact Guenter 541-415-1929 or ivwatch541@gmail.com for agenda and copy of Charter.

March 15

Trauma Informed Care, March 15 Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and presentation 6 - 7:30 p.m. Free at Evergreen Elementary. RSVP to make sure they have enough pizza at www.goo.gl/nRaeMA or call 541-592-3136. This is a presentation on childhood trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) how it affects the behavior of our children (and adults), and what we can do together to improve overall health and quality of life in our community.

March 15

Thursday, March 15th, 11a.m- 12p.m. Spring Storytime at the I.V. Library - An inclusive storytime for children 2 to 4 that includes free-play, circle time with books and songs, and a sensory-focused art activity. Continues monthly thru June 21st. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. I.V. Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

March 16

Chili Cook-off for Cave Junction Farmers' Market and KXCJ Benefit Dinner Friday, March 16, at 6 p.m. at Kerby Belt Building, 24353 Redwood Hwy., Kerby. The Chili Cook-off is a test of the best chili as tasted by the people. For a donation of \$5-20, you may eat all the chili and cornbread you want and vote for your favorites. Local wines, craft beers, coffee and desserts are sold separately. To enter chili, bake cornbread or volunteer, call Sarah at 541-415-0434 or email to cjfarmersmarketinfo@gmail.com.

March 17

The Southern Oregon Guild, 24353 Redwood Hwy, Kerby is hosting a fundraising concert and cakewalk on St. Patrick's Day. Our Southern Oregon region's 3 Rivers Chorale has been invited to join choral groups and musicians from around the work to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City, April 15. Bid on beautiful cakes and en-

joy Celtic songs plus music from Wailin' Jennys performed by the Songbirds from the 3 Rivers Chorale. Saturday, March 17, from 3 - 5 p.m. Admission is by donation - \$5-\$15 sliding scale Call 541-592-5019 for more information.

March 17

Clean in Green, CJ Quarterly Clean up day, Saturday, March 17, 12:45 - 3 p.m., meet at I.V. Family Resource Center, 535 E. River St. Organized by Rotary Club of I.V. For more info call Nicole at 541-660-2419.

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.

*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.

Illinois Valley Democrats meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. in Cave Junction. Join with like-minded people for camaraderie and to plan actions in support of the Democratic agenda. Call Anita 541-592-3073 to confirm meeting days. Check us out on FB!

Public Health Clinic- Location: I.V. Family Coalition, 535, E. River St., CJ, 1st Thursday of every Month services offered STI Testing/Treatment, Women's Health Exams (Annuals/Problem Vitsits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing, Pregnancy counseling. 3rd Thursday of every Month: STI testing/treatment, birth control counseling (methods limited), Pregnancy

Testing, Immunizations. Call 541-474-5329 for an appointment, and make sure to tell the receptionist to schedule you in CJ. Walk-ins welcome! Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*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. Applications 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 cjpatrol.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.

*Illinois Valley Indivisible, a grassroots community dedicated to the nonviolent defense of our democratic system and basic human rights, meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River Street in Cave Junction. More info at www.facebook.com/IVIndivisible.

*Your public library has activities happening every week! Storytime reader, Melanie, has crafts and stories for kids of all ages Saturdays from 12-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4770. IV Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ entrance is up the stairs in the back. Questions- Call Ania 541-621-0434.

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