

Indoor arena renovation moves forward with help from area organizations

The Fair Board of the Josephine County Fairgrounds and Event Center would like to keep the citizens of Josephine County informed regarding the progress toward the renovations of the indoor arena renovation at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

The fairgrounds has a commitment from and will be the recipients of the four Josephine County Rotary Clubs' Duck Derby Funds in 2018, 2019 and 2020 that will equate to approximately \$200,000 for the Indoor Arena project.

In addition, the Ford Family Foundation has awarded a grant of \$150,000 to the project. The Ford Family Foundation was established in 1957 by Kenneth W. and Hallie E. Ford. Its mission is "successful citizens and vital rural communities" in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. The foundation is located in Roseburg, Oregon, with a scholarship office in Eugene.

Community groups and businesses have pledged time and materials to move this project to completion.

Along with funds from the Josephine County Building Fund that the fairgrounds pays into and Economic Development Funds that have been set aside for this project, the fairgrounds will be moving forward with plans to put a new roof on the structure, build new entrance areas, provide seating areas for handicapped individuals, provide a new restroom that will accommodate handicapped persons, re-side the exterior, paint the interior, improve the lighting and improve the café and interior seating areas.

"We are grateful to all the funding partners for this project that see the value in making improvements in our facility and taking what we have and making it better for the benefit of our entire community," said Mary Groves, Josephine County

County cracks down on drug houses

On Tuesday, Oct. 30, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, in coordination with the Josephine County Legal, Community Development, Code Enforcement, Animal Control, Public Health, and County Maintenance Departments, secured and closed the property located at 2620 Woodland Park Road in Grants Pass, after obtaining a court order to that effect. On Wednesday, Oct. 31, this same coordinated effort allowed the county to secure and close another property at 195 Pinewood Way in Cave Junction. The properties at 2620 Woodland Park Road and 195 Pinewood Way were known to law enforcement as places where the use, possession and distribution of drugs took place. Additionally, these properties pose major health and safety risks, given the accumulation of large amounts of garbage and solid waste. Pursuant to the

court's order allowing the abatement of these nuisances, the properties were secured by the county, and shall remain closed to all individuals for a period of one year. The properties are slated for clean-up after an assessment is completed by county officials. An order of trespass has been issued for both properties, and anyone who enters onto either property without prior county approval will be arrested and prosecuted for trespass to the fullest extent of the law.

Many properties like 2620 Woodland Park and 195 Pinewood Way exist in Josephine County, and the county is working to ensure that these properties are dealt with in the most efficient, cost effective and legal manner possible. For questions, the point of contact is Augustus Ogu, assistant county legal counsel at 541-474-5226.

Guild celebrates the freedom to create with new show opening and book release on Veterans Day

What would it be like if we couldn't express our individual feelings or ideas?

What would it be like to live in a world where it's dangerous to say what you think, to create or enjoy images that are meaningful to you, or to make or listen to the music that resonates with you?

There are those among us and those long gone who make sure we remain free to be who we choose to be. To honor them, the Southern Oregon Guild opens

its new show, "Freedom," and releases the fourth annual edition of "Cobra Lily – a Review of Southwest Oregon Literature and Art" on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11 at the Guild Gallery & Art Center in Kerby.

In addition to enjoying appetizers, wine tasting and live music, we will explore the question, "Does art have the power to effect our lives and our world?" And, you will also find new art work like Bruce Stone's special painting, "Freedom." Come join the conversation

and camaraderie from 2 to 4 p.m. this Sunday at the Guild Gallery & Art Center on the RCC Kerby Campus, 24353 Redwood Highway in Kerby. Admission is \$5 which also earns ticket for the door prize drawing.

Regular Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, call 541-592-5019 during gallery hours, email guild@southernoregonguild.org, check the website www.southernoregonguild.org or find us on Facebook.

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.)

Be a part of the solution

At a recent structure fire in O'Brien, the occupants criticized the Illinois Valley Fire District for taking 30 minutes to arrive

on scene when they can see the O'Brien Fire Station from their property. The actual response time was 12 minutes. There was a 3-minute delay when the reporting party's call to 911 was dropped and the number remained busy on call back.

They are correct on one point. There is a fire station in O'Brien. Volunteers Firefighters at the O'Brien Station? Zero. Volunteer Firefighters at the Selma Station? One. Volunteer Firefighters at the Takilma Station? Zero. Volunteer Firefighters at the Holland Loop Station? One. Volunteer Firefighters at the Dryden Station? Zero. Volunteer Firefighters at the Cave Junction Station? Six with one career person on shift.

My answer to the criticism is simple. I did not see their application to volunteer. No one wants to lose property to a fire. We saved this house with minimum fire and water damage.

It is understandable that when you are the one in need, minutes seems like hours. We would love to have volunteers in O'Brien. Our response time would have been reduced. However, no one in the O'Brien area has stepped up to the plate to help.

The Illinois Valley Fire District has six fire stations to cover 144 square miles and 16000+ residents. We do this with one career 24/7 staff firefighter at the Cave Junction Station, 4 week day career Chief's, two students and eight volunteer firefighters. There is a fire academy starting in January. We provide all the necessary training for your Firefighter 1 certification and Emergency Medical Responder license. We also have other volunteer opportunities with CERT, Support Services and our Reserve Driver program.

Want to make a difference in your community? Contact us for more information and an ap-

plication at 541-592-2225 or our website IVFire.com

**Dennis Hoke
IVFD Chief**

First lady's shoes and SCOTUS

The Justice for SCOTUS hearings were much different than one would expect for 'advice and consent' of the U.S. Senate. Just observing how the two parties approached this responsibility was fascinating.

One party, might be called "adults", seemed as if they were serious about this Constitutional duty. I'll call the other party the "OTA" or other than adult. The OTA's provided regular disruptions from invited demonstrators in the audience. One lady senator failed to discuss a letter she had received well before the hearings from a constituent which she held for several weeks.

Then, just before the vote, so as to add to the chaos to what used to be a serious Senate duty, she came up with the letter.

Even though one OTA gave himself a "Sparticus moment", he too failed to contribute any facts to the discussion.

The OTA's voted against the candidate because of a new standard! If a woman says she was sexually molested about 35 years ago but doesn't remember where, exactly when, or how she got there or got home from wherever she was, she is to be believed if she is 100% sure of who did it! They must put "recovered memories" of events about 35 years later into the books. It can be called the "I believe" law.

Why have trials when OTA's already know females don't lie about such matters! Now that's a standard we can believe in.

A word on Worden letter.

The Worden letter reflects the frustration of those that strongly believe in the Rule of Law as the standard we should all agree on. When the press deviates from this standard and substitutes the Rule of Emotion, society falls apart. Worden's piece shows an "over the top" response to a press that had largely abandoned their independent status in their determination to destroy Trump. Instead of reporting on Trump achievements like record breaking unemployment of blacks and Hispanics, they choose to be critical of the shoes the first lady wears to a plane or speculate on possible health problems of our president and first lady's young son. When the press prints the real and relevant news instead of sniping at the first family, they may once again have the respect of all Americans.

**Greg Anderson
Cave Junction**

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
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Save the date

Nov. 7-10

I.V. Friends of the Library annual BOOK SALE Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7-10, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Come find stocking stuffers, holiday treasures and gifts for the whole family! No set prices, purchase by donation. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. I.V. Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

Nov. 8

IVHS Awards Night for Fall football, volleyball, soccer and cheerleading from 6-8 p.m.

Nov. 8 & 9

*Nov. 8 and 9, IV Senior Center 26th Annual Christmas Bazaar. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days, over 30 vendors of home made, one of a kind and unique items for sale. Raffles, cake sale and the kitchen open for lunch and snacks. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Tables still open, call 541/592-6888.

Nov. 17

*FREE FREE FREE DENTAL CLINIC

This is a one day event. Medical Teams International will only do extractions and fillings. Space is limited so call Illinois Valley Baptist Church @ 541-592-9268 for an appointment.

*Nov. 17 Pie and Praise, Event of the Pregnancy Center

of the Illinois Valley at the CJ Senior Center at 520 River Street from 2-4 p.m.

Continuing

*Evergreen Elementary School is looking for **SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) volunteers**. Come read with children for an hour a week and change a life. Currently the program is on Wednesdays, but with enough readers, we'd like to expand to Tuesdays and Thursdays also. Volunteers are asked to arrive about 11:35 and will be finished reading by 12:45. To learn more about the the SMART program you can call 541-734-5628 or visit the website at www.getSMARToregon.org

*Chess Club at the library. All ages and levels are welcome. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month. Chess boards will be provided. Drop in for a game from 3 p.m - 6 p.m. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. IV 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. Applications are available at the substation or online at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer>. For information call 541-474-5123.

*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 Visits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing, Pre-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.

*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!

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

**Illinois
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