

Obituaries

Joe Blass Sullivan, 81, of Henderson, Nevada, died Nov. 8, 2018. He was born Nov. 29, 1936, in the log mining town of Tionesta, California

His father, James, worked in logging camps throughout Northern California and Southern Oregon. His father and mother Leo (Lee) eventually settled in Cave Junction, and years later moved to Central Point, Oregon.

Joe was always a bit of a crafty trader. While living in Happy Camp, California, he watched young boys race around in go carts. Fascinated, Joe traded an old movie camera for one of the sporty machines.

This would be the beginning of a love of fast cars and more than a decade of being known for his racing prowess at the Medford Raceway, AKA, the Posse Grounds.

To help pay for his racing he started a side business in Central Point, Oregon, “Joe’s Wide Wheel’s, a wrecking yard. During his years at the raceway, from the mid-60s to the mid-70s, Joe won a Track Championship and the prestigious Art Pollard Memorial Race. He won championships in Medford several times and also raced in Roseburg and in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Joe never wanted to stop competing. The cost though became prohibitive and he had to let go of his dreams. Once a racer, always a racer.

Joe became active in the Illinois Valley

gold mining. He learned all about miner’s equipment and other mining information. Joe had an opportunity with a big gold mining company on an Alaskan adventure. For several months he operated heavy mining equipment.

Joe married Joan (Taylor) on Sept. 8, 1984, at the Community Bible Church in Cave Junction. Joan admired all of his racing achievements. She fixed up a room to display all of his many trophies, awards and photos. He also had a write-up about his many adventures in the Cave Junction newspaper.

Joe loved the outdoors. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and butter clam digger at the Oregon coast. He taught Joan how to fly fish, an activity they enjoyed together along with many other sport activities.

Years later, when he and his wife moved to Southern Nevada, they would become involved with mining in the Searchlight area.

Joe used his earlier skills of building engines and designing tools to create innovative apparatus used in extracting gold from the stubborn desert soil. Up until a few months before his passing, Joe was actively mining along side with Joan and a closely knit group of fellow miners.

Although he never graduated from high school, he was smart and inventive beyond a basic education.

He learned to find ways to make his

race engines faster. He also designed his own tubular A-frame for his race car.

He built equipment to mine the gold that fascinated him any place he lived. His shop was filled with projects. Touring his shop was a captivating experience. He could rebuild, rework and revive a piece of junk, to some people, but to Joe it was a treasure.

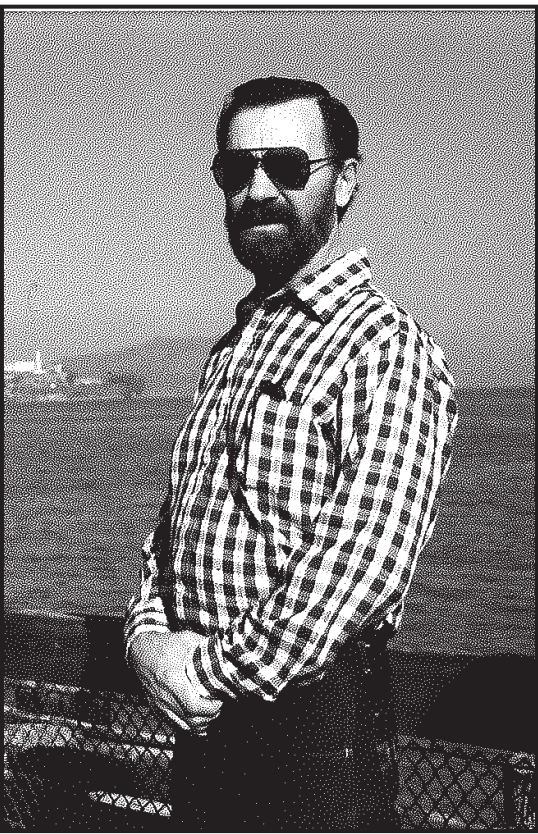
His shop now seems strangely quiet without him in it “making a lot of noise.”

Joe was preceded in death by his father, James Sullivan, his mother, Leo (Lee) Sullivan and brothers Harold Williams and Robert Williams.

Joe is survived by his wife of 34 years Joan Sullivan; his four children, Debra Sexton, Terry Sullivan, Tricia Garcia and Misty Halslead; four grandchildren; two great grandchildren and his three stepsons, David, Mathew and Mark Taylor; his cousins Ferrel, LaVitra Sullivan, Barbara, Betty and Frank Sullivan, Ethel Hamrick (Sullivan), Doug, Keith and Burl Owings and Patsy Williams, sister-in-law.

No services are planned. Per Joe’s request his ashes will be spread in Tionesta, Calif, alongside with his beloved mother, Leo (Lee) Sullivan and brother, Harold Williams.

Joe will be missed by those who knew and loved him, of which, there are many.



No paper January 2, 2019

The Illinois Valley News office will be closed Dec. 24 through January 1

**Your Public Library
has NEW HOURS!**

**Starting Wednesday, February 21st
the IV Branch will be open 4 days a week at 11am!**

**Wed 11 - 6
Thurs 11 - 5
Fri 11 - 5 & Sat 11 - 5**

For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4770
IV Branch, Josephine Community Libraries
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Save the date

Jan. 13

Please join us for a Stomping out Cancer in the I.V. fundraiser at Sportsman Tavern, Sunday, Jan. 13 from 2 - 6 p.m. There will be an auction plus chili and cornbread for donation and dine-in only.

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 SMART 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 3pm - 6pm. 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, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 to 2. Volunteers are still needed to staff another day and expand hours. 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.

*The Illinois Valley Democrats meet quarterly at the I.V. Family Coalition. Join with like-minded people Saturday 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.

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editor - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

copy editor - C.J. Schatza

classified ads - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

circulation - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

advertising / composition - Dan Mancuso
dan@illinois-valley-news.com

mailroom - Kimberly Potter

DEADLINES:

News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcement and Letters

4 P.M. FRIDAYS

'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.

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