

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 under 400 words 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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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.)

Congrats to Porter
Last week I inadvertently left out the name of one spirited player on the fourth-grade basketball team. Congrats to you, Kyle Porter, for a job well done!
Tina Wright Selma

Reader cries foul over Jubilee spray pad
The Fast Tracking, posturing, promoting, demoting, the exclusion of participation, the cover up, and continuous expansion of the Spray Pad and it's boundaries, from one month to the next, and lack of clear detailing, all in all have caused considerable division, of late, in our community. All for the love of the pursuit of a large grant from the state to bestow upon Cave Junction a monumental sized spray park pad (now at140x90ft). One as grand as the one in Grants Pass with amenities, for only \$40K to CJ City of the \$300K total. We'll even

throw in some shade areas for the farmers market crew, if they would wag their tails. Certainly now we will become a tourist attraction, in line with the Oregon Caves, and a convenient stop just along the route - mind you. Oh yes, this would be a boon for the kids to, the little ones, moms & dads, a one stop shop with Farmers Market, etc. We will have to expand the parking area, swap out more of the green lawn. Next years grant! Let's shoot for \$500k this time. And lets not forget skate park II.

Yet what business would start or relocate to CJ with its escalating unabashed crime, vandalism, addiction, and homelessness. But there will be a tall fence around the unwanted, the vandals, and, maybe even consertina wire to ornament the top. We'll even paint it green; add red and pink plastic flowers. As we don't have the means for Sheriff Deputy night patrol well ask Jimmy to mount up a Jubilee patrol, and we'll have Roger as its first captain, as the park hosts will certainly need help. So let us continue to plot a course, departing from the green world, for the love of urbanization, asphalt, and concrete. Sorry we don't have time for a workshop or a town hall on the matter. April 1st is the big deadline, we have to hurry. Such are our priorities... Oh by the way we did appoint a parks committee to agree with all this on your behalf. You should be grateful.

Guenter Ambron Cave Junction

Three Birds, One Stone
I am writing this letter to address 3 separate IV News articles with the intent to inspire constructive dialogue with regard to receptiveness,

or lack thereof, to public input in the Cave Junction city planning process.

Starting with the most recent publication on March 20, 2019, commentary by Publisher and rural CJ resident Dan Mancuso on page A-2 "Life In The Valley Of Riches", Mr. Mancuso makes his point very clear. Rural residents of the Illinois Valley "...have no say in how the city is run". This same statement was echoed by the Cave Junction City Recorder, who is tasked with "public contact" on behalf of the city of CJ, in a front page article in the January 23rd edition of The Grants Pass Daily Courier. The quote reads " "They (rural CJ residents) don't decide how we design our city's park, that's not their decision," Patton said. "Come to council and share your concerns, but this is a city park and it's our responsibility." ' This comment was made in regard to current park users (CJ Lions Club, CJ Farmers' Market) expressing concern over the lack of public outreach by the city regarding the plan to remove over 6000 square feet of green space in Jubilee Park. In the State Of The City Address given during the January 7, 2019 CJ city council meeting, Mayor Elect Martell referred to Jubilee Park saying it is "...a recreational resource for the city of Cave Junction and the entire Illinois Valley" (sourced from audio minutes of CJ City Council meeting 01/07/2019 43:10)...Out of the mouths of CJ elected officials.

I think that it is safe to say that the monies spent in the city of Cave Junction by inhabitants of O'Brien, Selma, Kerby, Takilma, Holland, etc go a long way in supporting the fiscal solvency of the city. Would the city survive even one year if the other 15,000

IV residents who reside out of city limits stopped doing their business in CJ and took it all out of the valley? If 40% of CJ residents couldn't pay their property taxes due to lack of employment, where would the city be? How many local businesses would stop advertising their services in this publication if folks started subscribing to the Courier? Mr. Mancuso, Cave Junction is not an island, but is the hub that connects the entire Illinois Valley and a center point for all valley residents.

The next article of interest can be found tucked away on page 8 of the Feb 27th edition of the IV News titled "What's The Deal With The Pool" where parks and recreation "consultant" Roger Brandt outlines a potential "switcheroo", a carnival shell game scheme to transfer the "outdoor recreation only" status from the old pool property to the recently purchased ball field site near Jubilee park. Such endeavors would open the door for the prospect of funding a high maintenance indoor pool facility near the high school, another grandiose pipe dream at its best.

Perhaps Mr. Brandt, who seems quite influential in the planning process of the city's parks, might recommend that the city build the splash pad at the old pool site which already

has all of the necessary waterworks and drainage infrastructure in place and is already paved and fenced. The proximity of the pool site to the Head Start/Early Head Start buildings as well as it's relative proximity to the newest housing developments in CJ affirms the simple logic of locating the splash pad on East River Street.

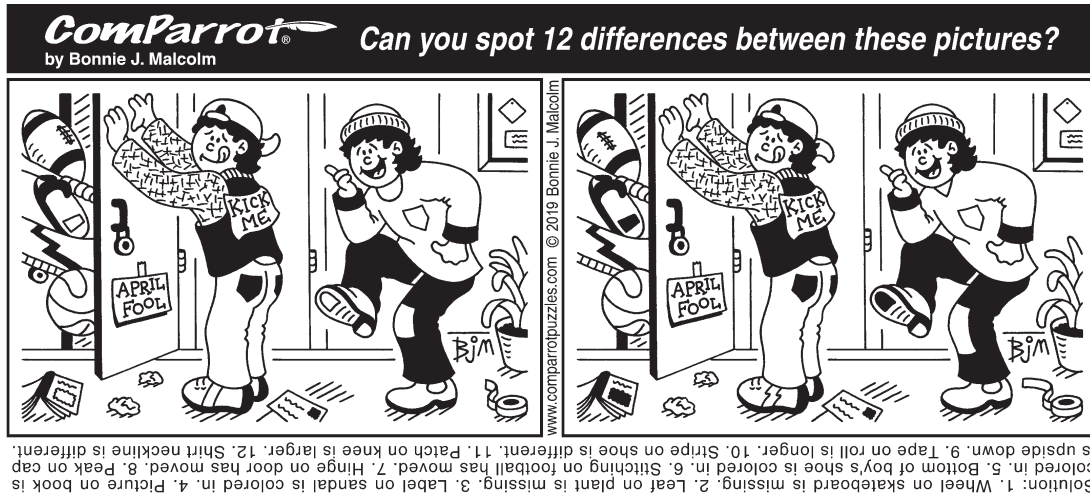
Finally, 20,000 gallons of city water per day draining out of Jubilee park, which is only a few blocks from the sewage treatment plant, would have a minimal benefit for the city's sewage infrastructure and have a net utility cost to the city of over \$5000 a season, based on the current rate of \$1.90 per 100 cubic feet of city water (7.9 gallons/cubic ft). Wouldn't it make the most sense for the city to take advantage of the excessive amount of water being flushed into the city sewer system while the spray pad is in operation during the dry summer months by locating the spray pad a bit farther from the treatment plant?

The last article of interest was front page news in the March 13, 2019 edition of the IV News titled "City Rolls Out Splash Park Plan" which could be more appropriately titled "Roger Brandt Rolls Out Splash Park Plan". According to the

article that continues on page A-2, the Parks Commission is not yet formed and the council chose to table the selection of 4 candidates out of 8 applicants to allow councilors time to review the applicant's background. How can the city be rolling out plans for the park when the very commission whose purpose it is to lead the planning process has not been formed? Let it be noted that the parks commission is mandated to have 5 members so as to avoid a tie vote, but it appears that the council could only find 4 individuals within city limits who are willing to fall in line and be complicit to the interests of the council and city staff.

Finally, according to the March 13 article, Roger Brandt seems more concerned with how to score points in the "Americans With Disabilities" category than with scoring points in the "public support" category. Ironically, the state parks and recreation grantors give great consideration to public opinion, being the single most heavily weighed category in the grant application. Maybe the city might consider doing the same.

Sunrise Ocean O'Brien



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

Save the date

March 29

*On March 29 a national celebration will be held to welcome home all veterans who served during the period of the Vietnam War. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Riverside Park Trevillian Pavilion 304 SE Park Street Grants Pass, A BBQ lunch, service providers and guest speakers will be at the event. Please come and show your support. All are welcome!

March 30

The I.V. Conservation District and Rogue Native Plant Partnership are teaming up on a native plant sale, some of the proceeds supporting the District's operations and restoration efforts. The website is RogueNativePlants.org and click the "Native Plants for Sale" tab. Pick-up location is our offices in Cave Junction on April 6. Sale ends March 30. Give us a call with any questions 541-592-3731.

GIRLS CAN DO! Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Takilma Community Building, 937 Takilma Rd, CJ. Dinner provided. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Please Pre-register. The event is free but space is limited. Call 541-287-0172. Leave your name and call back number. Girls learn building skills, share a meal and take part in a Women & Girls Circle event. Presented by Rusk Ranch Nautre Center, Zonta ~ Soroptimist and Takilma Community Building & Dome School.

April 13

Portland Gay Men's Chorus is thrilled to return to Grants Pass to perform their Spring Concert April 13, 7 p.m. This concert is a fundraiser for Hearts with A Mission. Hearts with A Mission serves homeless and at-risk-youth by providing shelter, educational support, mentoring and transition planning with a faith-based approach. Our Audacity to Hope | Newman M.ethodist Church | Grants Pass, OR

April 20

Rough & Ready wildflower hike Saturday, April 20. 10 a.m. meet in the parking area at Rough & Ready Botanical Wayside south of Cave Junction on Hwy. 199 at mile marker 34. This is a great opportunity for folks to come out and enjoy the spring wildflowers no matter what your skill level on plant identifications might be.

This is a short hike on rocky, but relatively level ground, with lots of beautiful wildflowers to see, many of them are rare or of limited range. A portion of the hike will be along a wheel chair accessible path so folks of limited mobility can come out and enjoy the wildflowers too.Bring water, dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes. Bring lunch if you like, there's a picnic table overlooking Rough & Ready Creek. For more information: Call Suzanne Vautier at 541-659-7407.

Sponsored by: Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network (CEEN) the Southern Oregon Native Plant Society and KS Wild.

Ongoing Cave Junction Homeless Alliance

(CJHA) Meeting Sunday, 4-6 p.m., St. Patrick of the Forest, W. River St. St. Patrick Soup Kitchen Sunday is a new weekly soup and bread feed held in conjunction with CJHA meetings. The event is sponsored by Street Services, supported by a caring community, and serves those who are hungry. NOTE: If you are interested in providing a soup, bread, beverage, or volunteering for this weekly community service please contact: Jimmy Evans E-Mail: jevans@cjhomeless.org Phone: 541.592.2407 (Message) PM: Messenger

***CJ NEX (Needle Exchange)** Mondays from 12-3 at the Immanuel United Methodist Church across from Shop Smart. Free HIV and Hepatitis C testing as well as needle exchange, overdose response and naloxone training.

*Weekly Community Watch meetings are

every Monday, 5:30 p.m., at Wild River Pizza, CJ. We help you build your neighborhood watch, fire emergency preparedness program, Immediate Alert Notification system (smart phone), 2-way radio service. Contact Guenter 541-415-1929 or ivwatch541@gmail.com.

*Line dancing in Cave Junction, Free, for more information call 541-415-1410. Wednesday beginners line dancing group from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. meets at the Church of Latter Day Saints, 207 South Junction Ave. Entrance and parking in the back. Friday beginners line dancing group meets at Wild River Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy. Line dancing practice from 5 -6 p.m. and dancing from 6-7 p.m. to live music from Jay Barley. Saturday beginners group meets at the Healthy U, 535 E. River St. beginners 11 a.m. – noon and more advanced noon – 1 p.m.

***GET YOUR TAX RETURN FILED FOR FREE!** The Josephine County Tax-Aide program offers free federal and Oregon state tax preparation to low and moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older. We are trained volunteers certified by the IRS.

We will be offering our free service to Illinois Valley residents at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., on Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., beginning Feb. 2. Please call 541-592-6139 to make an appointment.

*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 call 541-734-5628 or visit the website at www.getSMARToregon.org.

*The Sheriff's Office Substation in Cave

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News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcement and Letters
4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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