



Life in the Valley of Riches

by Dan Mancuso,
publisher

COVID-19 has flipped our world upside down. Some of you feel this is nothing more than a flu. Others feel it’s the end of times and then there are people at all points in between.

Is this the end of days? Or is this just the flu? Only time will tell if it’s the end of times but let’s compare the numbers between the flu and COVID-19.
The flu year starts Oct. 1

and ramps down in late April, sometimes May.

As of today, this flu year has hospitalized 250,000 Americans and killed another 14,000. This is over the course of six months. That is a lot of people and if you know one of them it’s an even bigger deal.

On the other hand, COVID-19 (as of the last numbers I saw from the CDC {Centers for Disease Control

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& Prevention} as of April 6) has killed 10,680 and more than 41,000 people have been hospitalized. All this happened in only two months. At this rate we will topple the flu deaths, and our president has said it is expected to kill 100,000 - 200,000 Americans if things go well. Do you still think this is just a flu?

We need to follow the advice of the medical experts and stay away from each other. We need to wear masks to prevent us from spreading the virus to other people. Additionally, the CDC came out today and said that wearing gloves is really not much help if we don’t change them after we touch anything, as all we are doing is transferring germs with the gloves instead of our hands.

Like you, I am tired

of this; I want my life back. And trying to run a campaign during this is nuts!

But this will end and until then we need to try to support our local businesses. If you have the ability to order carry out, please do so. Shop local and be kind to the people that are working.

Local business owners have tried to create barriers to protect their employees’ health but they are still in harm’s way.

Another issue folks have been complaining about is the lack of information as to where confirmed cases are. The rumor mill is in full swing here in the Valley. I reached out to Josephine County Health Director Michael Weber who said he appreciates that people are eager to know about who has tested positive and where they live/work. “However, we

are very limited in what we can release unless there is a demonstrated need. We will soon be releasing additional demographic details; however that will not include location.”

Weber explained that the reasons are twofold:

“First, it is possible for people close to that individual to potentially find them, and we can’t provide a level of detail that would allow even a close family member to identify them. Second, we do not want people to have a false sense of security. There has been so little testing done in our state (and country), that our 16 cases do not accurately reflect the actual spread of the disease.”

In conclusion, Weber said that our readers who are curious if COVID-19 is in the Valley should act as if it

is in the area. “This is why it is imperative that people take these protective measures seriously, regardless of whether there is a known case near them or not.”

With that said, if you have not already you need to take the precautions advised. I admit that while I have been good about washing my hands and carrying hand sanitizer, I wasn’t all that concerned about getting it. But things are changing rapidly and I have started to wear a mask when in stores.

“It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change.”

~ Leon C. Megginson
Happy Easter. Thank you for picking up this week’s paper. Enjoy! ~djim

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor less than **500 words**. 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.)

“THE DIVIDED STATES OF AMERICA-A Cautionary Tale”

How many times have you heard in the

last week or two “We’re all in this together”? Well, we are!

We are the United States of America, not the “Divided States of America.” It’s not a war between the “Blue” and the “Red,” we are “The Red, White and Blue.” This virus we are doing our best to fight off has no political party attached. We need to be united, on the same team, to be the strongest we can be. The expression “Divide and Conquer” can only weaken us, as we have seen in history books.

So with all the social distancing we need to do, let’s not forget to reach out to one another, (no matter what political party they seem obsessed with) maybe even by the old phone.

Take care,
God Bless America,
Sincerely, Skye Dillon
Cave Junction

DEMAND TESTING FOR ALL!

Why is our federal government refusing

to accept the tests that are already available?

Why are the people of this country not demanding that our federal government do it’s job of protecting the people of our country by requiring that everyone get tested, with continued testing, to assure the asymptomatic are not getting others sick?

Why is our federal government more concerned with Roche getting rich, creating tests that already exist?

Why is our federal government promoting war profiteering, instead of filing felony charges against the companies that are blatantly breaking the laws of war profiteering?

This is a prime opportunity to fix what’s broken, that’s worth saving. Like our for profit medical industry.

Ending the use of all things that never should have been used. Like petro chemicals created for warfare, created to kill, that are poisoning our water, soul, soil, air and bodies. Creating an educational system that

provides all with the highest quality of learning to avoid the madness we are now living.

Right here, in the Illinois Valley, we grow a plant that creates 50,000 different products. Cannabis. But our egos are so big, that the only thing we have done is cut each other’s throats and destroyed the market for smokable and CBD.

It is our individual responsibility to do what’s right. It’s time to put our differences aside and start pulling together for the betterment of all. Because it’s not just all about you. We cannot survive without the others in our lives helping to make the world work.

It’s time for bold right actions. It’s time to give love, instead of hate. It’s time to be compassionate, not cruel to one another. It’s time to get to work and become a better community.

Here’s to making great things happen.

Nina Horsley
Cave Junction

Obituaries

Thomas Lloyd Wilson, 80, of Cave Junction, died March 30, 2020 at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors in charge of arrangements.

Thomas “Tom” Lloyd Wilson, 80, passed away on Monday, March 30, 2020, in Grants Pass, Oregon, at Three Rivers Community Hospital.

Tom was born Feb. 23, 1940, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Marie (Steiner) Wilson and Elmer “Al” Lloyd Wilson. He was the second child in a family of six children. In 1947, Marie & Al moved their growing family to Southern California. There, Tom’s interest in cars, furniture building, history, politics, and his greatest passion, art, grew. His desire to

create led to him attending El Camino College in Torrance, California, to develop further his artistic skills of painting, drawing, as well as learning the art of ceramics and sculpture.

In May 1960, Tom married his sweetheart, Sandra Lee Hair. The couple settled in Redondo Beach, and had two children, Lloyd in 1961, and Jennifer in 1964. Eventually in the summer of 1972, they moved their family to the beautiful Illinois Valley in Southwest Oregon where Tom began working at Rogue Community College. Tom taught ceramics in the art department at RCC for over the next 30 years.

As an artist, Tom had many exhibitions, both solo and group, including shows at the University of Oregon Museum of Art, the Maude Kerns Art Center, Lane Community College, Southern Oregon University, Keller Gallery, Portland Art Museum, Grants Pass

Museum of Art, and both the Wiseman Gallery and Firehouse Gallery at RCC. He also received various awards, recognizing his gift as an artist and craftsman. Perhaps Tom’s greatest accomplishment was the countless students he was able to teach, many of whom became friends, and some who continue to create art and ceramics here in the Rogue Valley and beyond.

After his retirement from RCC, Tom continued his artistic passion in his cooking. Tom was known to both friends and his grateful family alike for his delicious and flavorful meals. He baked his own bread weekly, he made his own stock, his own tortillas, and when he was dissatisfied with the tortilla presses on the market, he crafted his own from wood, making one as well for each of his children. Tom could be found weekly shopping at a variety of local markets

in pursuit of the ingredients he needed for the culinary delights he served up. His love and creativity was in everything he made.

Tom is survived by his wife, Sandy, of Cave Junction, his son, Lloyd Wilson and daughter-in-law, Holly Preslar, of Grants Pass, grandchildren Larissa (Wray) Pernicka & Kristina Warner, of Cave Junction, his brothers, Keith Wilson (Rose), Allen Wilson, Danny Wilson (Ed Lim), Pat Wilson (Karen), sister Mary Wilson, seven great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Tom was preceded in death by his parents and by his daughter, Jennifer.

In lieu of flowers, the family would ask that contributions be made to the Rogue Community College Foundation in favor of the arts. A gathering to remember Tom is hoped to be planned for a later date.

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

Save the date

April 11

***Rough & Ready Wildflower Hike**, Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. has sadly been CANCELED

***American Rose Society** CANCELS Parking Lot/Plant Sale and April meeting.

April 9

***The Armchair Investment Club** scheduled for April 9 will be CANCELED. Paperwork will be available at I.V. News to pick up - with proper social distancing and Oregon Health Authority guidelines.

April 17

The CJ Farmers’ Market is scheduled to open Friday, April 17 at 4 p.m. with a location change. CJFM is unable to use Jubilee Park at this time. The planned location at this time is the Kerbyville Farm/Painted Rooster Bakery. More details to follow.

Through May 31

Cobra Lily: a review of southwest Oregon

literature and art is a print journal celebrating our region. Consider sending your fiction, poetry, memoir, essays, history, interviews with interesting locals, photography, paintings, and more (i.e. don’t feel limited to these genre suggestions). Work should focus on the nature and culture of Southwest Oregon, or at least be the work of people who live in and love our region. The submission deadline for Volume 6 is May 31, with publication planned for late summer 2020. Work can be emailed to cobralilyreview@gmail.com. Contributors receive 1 free copy and a discount on additional copies. More information at CobraLily.org.

Ongoing

***AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Service Suspended Until Further Notice**

As coronavirus (COVID-19) developments change hour by hour, AARP Foundation is doing its part to flatten the curve of transmission. A top priority for us is ensuring we are protecting those most at risk., including our volunteers and

taxpayers. Therefore, we are suspending AARP Foundation Tax-Aide services beginning March 16 until further notice. We will continue to assess whether we can open again in some or all sites for the remainder of the tax season and if the tax season is extended. Josephine County Tax-Aide will attempt to re-open as soon as we are allowed by the AARP Foundation. Please check our website for updates: JOCO-FREETAXES.COM. Our volunteers will not be at our sites and our phone line will not be monitored for messages. We will contact you when and if we are able to reschedule appointments. We apologize for the inconvenience.

***The Food Bank at Doug Hoskins’ Resource Center/** Assembly of God Church is still open at 481 S. Junction Ave. in Cave Junction Mondays from 2-4 p.m. The new procedure is to line up in your car and a box will be brought out to you. (Directions are available on site.) If you are vegetarian or other special needs a specific box will be brought out to you in your car.

The Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance is excited to announce the launch of our after-hours Crisis Line which can be reached at 541-415-9367. The new local crisis line will be answered any hours the Safe House is closed. The line will be answered by an advocate who will be able to respond locally, also recognizing the barriers that may come up due to our rural location. For more information contact the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance 541-592-2515.

***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.

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