



Her life in the Valley of Riches

by Laura Mancuso, editor

It’s at times like these that you find out how resilient a community is. I have to say that I am happy to be in Cave Junction right now during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our local businesses have really stepped up to follow social distancing standards set forth by the state. For example, when I ordered tacos to go for our staff at

CJ Coffee, I was politely told that the lobby was closed and that I should use the drive thru for safety. At Dutch Bros., they are taking debit or credit cards only to reduce the exchange of cash, which is known to spread germs. The Cave Junction Farmers’ Market opened for the season April 17 at the old Kerbyville Farm stand.

They had hand washing stations and the vendors set up their booths so that only they handled their plant starts and vegetables. Every business that I have been to is trying to do their best with social distancing. (And, yes, even Sportsman Tavern is doing their best. Unlike what the rumors are suggesting, the tavern is closed and they were doing painting and remodeling inside when they received their citation.)

The only problem that I have noticed at our local businesses is from those patrons that are not concerned with social distancing. I feel this is rude. If a business is asking you to go one at a time at a register or a farm stand, because many in our community are concerned with their health, then please have courtesy to those near you and stay 6 feet away, even if you believe the virus is an “over-blown hoax.”

But it’s not only the businesses that have stepped up during the pandemic – residents have too. I am grateful that so many have volunteered to help others that are self-isolating due to being a senior or immunocompromised. I wanted to give a special thank you to Onion and the Northern Siskiyou Mutual Aid from Cave Junction, which donated 30, two ounce bottles of hand sanitizer and personal hygiene kits to Cave Junction Homeless Alliance (CJHA) to pass out to those that are houseless. I also wanted to thank Judi Carpenter for donating money and her handmade cloth masks to CJHA. I really could go on and on thanking people and that feels pretty good.

Thank you for picking up this week’s paper. Enjoy!



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Onion donating hand sanitizer and personal hygiene kits April 19.

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.)

Acting like a Gangsta

I would like to submit

Christine Perala Gardiner’s name to the “Taggers International Hall of Shame” committee. Has Christine gone gangsta? Who said I’ll paint any car for \$29.95?

An empty spray can has a distinct sound compared to a can with something in it.

Oh, will the defendant please rise. You crossed the line.

Cary Riley
Urban Cave Junction

READER COMMENDS CJ FARMERS’ MARKET

I would like to first thank the *Illinois Valley News*, and

more specifically Annette McGee Rasch, for an excellent front page article titled “CJ Farmer’s Market opens at old Kerbyville Farm site”, announcing the commencement of a new growing season with the Cave Junction Farmer’s Market. I also want to commend the CJ Farmer’s Market staff for their perseverance in maintaining forward motion with this vital community event to bring forth a new market season in light of the adversity presented by the current plandemic that has changed the way that individuals within communities are spatially relating to each other. Also worthy of notice is the efforts made by the Painted Rooster Bakery owner, Chris-

tophe Olsen for allowing the market to make it’s temporary home at his place of business at the old Kerbyville Farm site. A multitude of thanks goes out to all those involved in supporting the opening day of the 2020 CJ Farmer’s Market season. It was great to see the community come out and support sustainable agriculture and local food production.

One piece of information that was not relayed in the above mentioned article is the reason why the CJ Farmer’s Market had to make a sudden switch in location. The market board and staff were thrown a huge curve ball by the City of Cave Junction less than 2 weeks prior to opening market day when they were suddenly

informed that the city would not uphold their contractual agreement with CJFM to allow access to jubilee park. Months of planning and communication between market management and state, county and city officials confirming the validity and legitimacy of all Farmer’s Markets’ continuing operation in the State of Oregon was suddenly upended by an abrupt termination by city staff of a contractual agreement between the City of Cave Junction and the CJ Farmers Market. Kudos to the CJ Farmers Market staff for rising above this adversity to enable this cherished community event to continue.

Farmer’s markets are more essential now than

ever as the evidence of supply chain gaps has shown the fragility of our current supply infrastructure and our ability to acquire essential goods and services during a time of an upended economic system. This is a time to support the local economy, plant gardens and stay connected with your community in more constructive, heart directed venues. Dirt is not the enemy...in fact it is the Earth we walk upon that will sustain this community in it’s time of need when the trucks stop arriving to deliver what ever essential items that we have all taken for granted for so many years.

Sunrise Ocean
Cave Junction

From the desk of the mayor: Mayor Meadow Martell

I hope everyone is taking advantage of the sunny weather gardening, walking, playing or just sitting.

We are now into week five of “Stay Home, Save Lives” and it is working. The report, Rapid Update: COVID-19 intervention effectiveness and epidemic trends for Oregon, issued April 10, stated that along with increased hygiene, face masks and other measures begun earlier, the additional aggressive measures appear to have reversed the growth. The caution is that at this stage, any relaxation of our current aggressive control measures is likely to result in epidemic resurgence. This projection

extends only until May 19 and further data will be forth coming.

In a press conference on April 14, Governor Kate Brown presented a framework needed to reopen Oregon’s economy. It all depends on timing and she says, “we don’t control the timing, the disease controls the timing.” Governor Brown also said that Oregon is working in consultation with our neighbors in Washington and California because this virus knows no boundaries.

The steps Governor Brown has laid out are:

1. Oregon must first slow the growth of COVID-19, as well as acquire

adequate personal protective equipment to protect health care workers and first responders. Once those prerequisites are met, Oregon can begin to reopen by:

- Ramping up COVID-19 testing capacity in every region of Oregon.
- Developing robust contact tracing systems to track and contain COVID-19 cases.
- Establishing a quarantine and isolation program for new cases.

These smart, deliberative steps are required to keep us moving forward, not backwards. Governor Brown states that the steps will be based on science, facts and in consultation with epidemiologists

and public health officials. We are balancing two important factors- health comes first and the other side is the economy. There is no firm date when things might open although there is some speculation that it could be mid-May. The opening will be incremental and perhaps even in different areas at a time. Unfortunately, this might move slower than any of us want. We are looking at a long process before our economy gets back to where it was.

Meanwhile life goes on. Camas, my favorite wildflower, are blooming along the riverbanks. Mergansers and Mallard ducks are nesting, and my neighbor spotted two river otters lazily

swimming up the Illinois River.

Governor Brown’s Executive Order 20-16 orders necessary measures to ensure safe public meetings and continued operations by local governments during coronavirus outbreak. On April 27, the Cave Junction City Council will be conducting a video conference using ZOOM. Details for those who wish to watch the meeting will be provided with the agenda packets emailed out on Friday and will also be provided on the city’s website cavejunctionoregon.us

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM

541-592-4110

Save the date

April 23

The Josephine County Commissioners Candidate Virtual Forum for Position 3 is this Thursday, April 23, from 7-8:15 p.m. This live event will be help over Zoom and is open to the public. Get to know the two candidates for the position: Nathan Seable and Herman Baertschiger Jr. They will be taking questions from the public. Registration is required to join. To register for the event, go to illinoisvalleyweb.org.

*April 23 meeting of the IV Soil & Water Conservation District and the IV Watershed Council are canceled.

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

***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.

LAUREL CEMETERY

NEEDS OUR HELP!

Let’s pitch in and help preserve and maintain the historical integrity and beauty of the Laurel Cemetery.

Donations can be made outright, a bequest, or in the honor or memory of a friend or family members.

Call 541-415-5294 or email just.laurel.cemetery@gamil.com

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by I.V. News LLC
Daniel J. and Laura M. Mancuso, copublisher

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Illinois Valley News is published weekly except the first week of January at 221 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523
Telephone 541-592-2541

Since 1937 periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523
P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year in Josephine County - \$35
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$36
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$43.00

Illinois Valley News does not refund subscriptions. Remainder of subscription will be donated to the charity of your choice.

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

AP

AP EXCHANGE

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.