

From the mayor’s desk:



Week 2, Phase 2. On Friday, June 12, Governor Kate Brown announced a seven day hold on all applications for further reopening. This statewide “yellow light” was triggered by a concerning increase in coronavirus

infections and a rise in hospitalizations across the state. Experts are saying that this spike in numbers could be contributed to several factors including more testing, better contact tracing, and outbreaks at workplaces. The seven-day pause will give public health officials time to investigate what is causing the increase, evaluate the effectiveness of contact tracers and whether reopening plans should be adjusted.

The counties affected by this pause are Washington, Hood River, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, and Lincoln

(in Phase 1) and Marion (in Baseline). This does not affect Josephine County or the other 27 counties in Oregon already in Phase 2.

We all miss being able to use our beautiful Jubilee Park. The city of Cave Junction made the decision that the park would continue to be closed during Phase 1. This decision was made by the city council based on the Oregon Health Authority’s guidance that when areas proved to attract crowds, such as playgrounds, picnic shelters and sports, they must remain closed. It was also recommended that staff

monitor physical distancing requirements and the cleaning and disinfecting requirements for high traffic areas and restrooms.

The beneficial effects of being outdoors are well recognized. Now that Josephine County is in Phase 2, there are more people advocating for opening Jubilee Park. Although Phase 2 now includes playgrounds, cities have not been provided any guidance different from Phase 1 about what reopening means. I have been assured that new outdoor recreation guidance is being worked on by OHA

and will be issued probably early this week. The Parks and Recreation Commission and the city will reconsider opening Jubilee Park when Phase 2 guidance becomes available. This decision will depend on the city’s capacity to meet the requirements necessary to keep people safe from COVID-19. It is important for everyone to recognize that we all have a vital part to play in keeping our park open and safe. There will still be distancing requirements, number of people restrictions and other rules that everyone will need to abide by. Stay tuned for more information as it

becomes available.

There is no doubt that these are difficult times and unfortunately the end is nowhere near in sight. As an individual, family, and/or friend in a city, county, state, country and a world- we are all in this together. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”

(Editor’s Note: As of June 15 — One additional patient from Josephine County has tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the county’s total number of confirmed cases to 24.)

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.)

Checking Reins

Towards the end of the 18th Century, just before the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, people depended upon horse drawn transportation. It became the fashion of the wealthy to use a “check rein” on the horses for their fancy carriages. This was attached from the bit to the harness and would pull

the horses head back arching the neck severely and very painfully to the animal. Many people were outraged by this cruelty. Women ran out into the road to try to unhook this torturous device. The driver would use his whip on them and they would be hurt and arrested. A moan of our valley, in desperation at the insanity of poisoning the earth has run out onto the road as it went to try to stop this abomination there by expressing her fury. Destroying the machines of our oppressions has not stopped the poisoning. What happens is they go to the body shop and use a lot of chemicals to repair the damage further poisoning the earth and air. It only puts more strain on our dear earth. Organizing seems to be all we can do to carry on and keep on keeping on. Educating people to these dangers. Door to door socially distance canvassing to encourage people to have no spray signs. We must find out exactly how much money is spent to spray the ditch and

roadsides including insurance for accidentally poisoning children. There are a lot of conscious people, people of conscience who support the issue of not spraying chemicals upon their land. The ditch runs into the river. I myself don’t have much confidence in the honesty of the giant chemical companies, Monsanto, Beyer, DuPont to be upfront about anything except making a lot more money. These are people who create seeds that grow plants that can’t reproduce from seed and kill butterflies. This seems to me to be a crime against nature, a sin. Why can’t we have local independent contact crews who maintain areas of the ditch system and roads. It’s not that much really to be done. I have a ditch in front of my house. My cat Julian was poisoned a few years back, he’s ok but man was he sick. I got a sign and I maintain my section. I also pick up after the pig slob who toss used up happiness wrappers into a water way.

Keeping the weeds down isn’t much more than once a year tending. It will be nice when leaders learn to stand in. To protect up instead of protecting the systems that are harmful to us. They go like “It’s the way it is you can’t do anything about it...next...”

Learning from people who stand up for what is righteous for freedom of “The pursuit” has gotten us pretty far a long the road to freedom. It’s a long road that stretches into eternity, but that road needs tending and weeding it needs cleaning up and it needs to be. It doesn’t seem to me that destroying the earth is the answer. To the dear women who run out onto the road to correct injustice I thank you for your courage, kind heartedness and sensitivity at the slaughter of the innocent. I hope the people of the Valley will support the concept that moved this woman to such an act of civil disobedience. I ask the judicial system to look at who is really to blame here, when people are being

poisoned and one woman stands up to stop the killing who are the guilty ones.

Shalom.

Mrs. Peno Cave Junction

Give Bosie a call

So Boise Cascade started destroying the forests that’s surrounding our neighborhood. And this is just the beginning of the 2016 resource management plan the Dept of interior and bureau of land management have in store.

They will remove every tree over 8” in diameter and then remove the rest of the plants later, if we’re not burnt out. So much for the state stopping logging for the summer. BLM’s five mandates don’t matter either. Or protection of our water supply. Or enforcement of the laws.

The headwaters of seven major river systems is being stripped out before our eyes. Hancock has been clear cutting one half, removing

the top soil and then spraying lots of cancer causing petro chemical in our watersheds.

Are we really going to do nothing to stop this?

After we turn this region into desert land, the rest of the United States will go with it. Council of Environmental Quality published a report in 1981 title “the Desertification of the United States”, warning us of the forestry practices of the last 40yrs.

Please contact Boise Cascade, Hancock and your representatives. Facebook, tweet, call. We have to stop them now. If you want water to drink and food to eat, we need to have the same number of people protesting for this first. Or no lives will matter.

Nina Horsley Cave Junction

SEE LETTERS ON A-9

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Save the date

June 17

CEEN has scheduled the Helicopter Survey for Alyssum for June 17. We will be searching in areas where Alyssum has been found or suspected, and following Rough & Ready Creek and the Illinois River. The survey is scheduled when Alyssum will be in peak bloom so it can be seen from the air. Alyssum murale and Alyssum corsicum were planted in the Illinois Valley by Viridian, a company from Texas, in a failed experiment to pull nickle out of the soil. Plants escaped the fields and is now listed as a A rated weed in Oregon. Alyssum is toxic to wildlife and livestock due to the accumulation of heavy metals. The survey is funded by a grant from the Oregon State Weed Board.

June 25

BLOOD DRIVE Illinois Valley Community. Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 E. River St. Thursday, June 25, 2020 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To schedule you appointment or for more information, contact American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

****Notice of Cancellation: AARP TAX SERVICES** at I.V. Family Coalition (IVFC) has opted to cancel the season entirely due to COVID-19. So there will be no taxes done this year by AARP at the IVFC.

JOE’s Place Cave Junction is Open!

We are so excited to announce that JOE’s Place Ministries is opening up for food service, personal activities and socializing.

NEW LOCATION: On Tuesday May 19, 2020 we will be at our new location behind River Valley Restaurant on Hwy 199 at East River St from 3 - 5 p.m. for youth ages 12 - 20 years old. We cannot use the school district property until they reopen.

The youth will definitely see a change in how we offer our services. We will be practicing social distancing, sanitizing of tables, chairs and equipment. We will also limit the number of youth to 25 per state guidelines. All staff members with be giving out food and snacks on an individual basis. I pray that our youth return for a hot meal and fellowship. Any questions, please email me at roger@joesplaceministries.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.

***The Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance** after-hours Crisis Line 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 wel-

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4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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