

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



Welcome to week 23 of the novel coronavirus pandemic. By now we are beginning

to accept that this uncertainty and turbulence is going to continue, for longer than most people anticipated. There are currently more than 4 million known infections in this country and nearly 146,399 deaths. As of Sunday, July 26 Oregon had a total of 16,758 confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 and 289 deaths. In Josephine County we had 84 cases, up significantly from levels prior to Phase 2 reopening. Projections in Oregon show that we are at a real turning point. One scenario is where things get worse as cases keep surging. Alternatively, we can reduce transmission and start to see infections drop again. It just takes three simple steps:

- Stay six feet apart.
- Avoid larger gatherings.
- Wear a mask.

We can do this! If we work together, we can put this virus in its place and save lives and livelihoods.

Last week Governor Brown lowered the mask requirements to age five and up in indoor public spaces and outdoors when six feet distance cannot be maintained and further limited business indoor capacity to 100 for all venues. Restaurants and bars will be required to close at 10 p.m. statewide. The possibility of travel restrictions has also been raised. The Oregon Department of Education released updated guidelines for the new school year. Local school districts will be able to implement three instructional models of learning: on-site, distance or hybrid, and a combination of the two. Prior to the school year, every school must develop an operational blueprint for re-entry that thoroughly describes how elements such as public health protocols, operations and equity will be addressed. The city council held a workshop last week to review the applications for the State Revenue

Sharing funds. Thirty-six applications were received from businesses and non-profits serving Cave Junction. Everyone is struggling to make up for lost income during mandated closures and continue meeting the measures. A recommendation will be made at the city council meeting July 27 to divide the SRS funds equally between qualifying applications. The purchase of the golf course property got more complicated when it was discovered that there was \$80,000 in deferred taxes. This fact was not disclosed or identified until recently. The city council is considering a resolution to submit a new bid. I will leave you this week with a quote of hope: “But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.” ~Martin Luther King, Jr.



Her life in the Valley of Riches by Laura Mancuso, editor

I am writing today to remind you to please check your sources

when it comes to reading news on social media or the internet. Did you

know you can edit the facts presented on Wikipedia? “Wikipedia: Free online encyclopedia that anyone can edit” is the tagline on their website. This is the reason most colleges do not allow Wikipedia to be used as a source when writing a paper. Currently I am being bombarded by videos on Facebook claiming the COVID-19 pandemic is a hoax. The most disturbing video of late was that Italy did autopsies finding that the coronavirus is a bacteria rather than a virus that was amplified by G5 and can be treated with aspirin. Please fact check before you forward videos.

Another reminder would be to know if the news you are watching or reading is actual news or commentary. I have found that some of our *Illinois Valley News* readers confuse the two at times. I have had subscribers call me to complain about an article that was written and wanted to challenge me on the facts. It turned out to be a letter to the editor and I had to explain that the letter was an “opinion” of another reader and not a news article written by a journalist. Dan and I like to listen to or watch a variety of news channels in order to understand everyone’s point

of view. My challenge to you is to listen to a commentator on two different channels on TV or the radio and pick out the biased statements they make. News is supposed to be unbiased - just reporting what happened; and commentary is someone’s opinion about a topic. I hope you take my challenge. And please know that although the writers with the *Illinois Valley News* do make errors, we never try to misinform you. Thank you for picking up this week’s paper. Enjoy!

Obituaries

Elvis B. “Passenger” Brooks, 55, of Cave Junction, died July 21, 2020 at his home. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors in charge of arrangements.

Jacqueline Kliffen-Gilmore, 84, of Cave Junction, died July 17, 2020 at her home. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors in charge of arrangements.

Randy Lee Hansen, 68, died May 20, 2020 at his home

in Cave Junction. He was born June 8, 1951, in Sioux Falls, SD to Jens and Muriel Hansen. Randy graduated from Illinois Valley High School in 1969 and following graduation he served in the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Germany. After returning from the military he began his career at Rough and Ready Lumber Company where he worked for the next 43 years until he retired. He is survived by his two children, Kevin L. Hansen and Stephanie M. Medley and granddaughter

Lauren Medley. In addition his sisters, Judith Stoffer (and husband Ken) of Eureka, CA and Deborah Smith of Henderson, NV, nephew Mark Goodwin, niece Meredith Smith and many cousins in South Dakota. Randy was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hunting with his lifelong friends. Later in life he took up golf and morning coffee meet ups with the guys. He never ventured far from the Valley and was happiest at home. He had a quick wit, a nickname for everyone

and always had a story to share. In memory of Randy’s life, memorial contributions may be made to IVHS Senior Scholarship Funds mailed to IVHS Alumni PO BOX 2086 Cave Junction, OR 97523. The family sends a special thank you to his loyal friends and neighbors who helped him so much, in so many ways. Randy was a kind, hard working and honorable man who will be deeply missed.



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.)

Reader has info
In the recent story regarding stolen mail, one helpful thing was omitted. The USPS will send recipient

email pictures of letters that are coming that day. It’s called USPS Informed Delivery. **Mara Lambert O’Brien**



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 historiclaurelcemetery@yahoo.com

Like us and follow us on Facebook Laurel Cemetery Association-LCA @justlaurelcemetery

Save the date

July 30 – Aug. 6
Accepting Donations for the Dorcas/Community Service building at 265 S. Old Stage Rd. Cave Junction. Monday, July 30, Tuesday, Aug 4 and Thursday, Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Ask for Patti or Steve at 541-415-1491 or 541-660-3486 call before 3 p.m. Needed: Food; clean clothing; all bedding, monetary funds; hangers; clothing racks; camping gear; and hygiene, bathroom and kitchen items.

Sundays, July 19 - Aug. 30
Spiral Living Center is excited to share our latest summer offering, a Virtual Skillshare Series! Over the next 7 weeks we will be sharing short classes filmed by Spiral Living Staff and local mentors from in and around the Illinois Valley. Topics covered will be range from permaculture basics to rural

living skills and crafts, as always promoting sustainability in its many forms. Tune in every Sunday at 6 p.m. PST from July 19-Aug. 30 on our public Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/spiralcenter) for a link to view the latest film. Classes are free and will be posted for later viewing. We encourage you to follow up with our teachers and support their work. While we miss seeing your smiling faces at our events, we hope that this series provides newfound connection & inspiration until we can meet again! Spiral Living Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting sustainable and rural living skills in the Illinois Valley since 2006. We currently maintain a wide spectrum of community-reliance programs devoted to food security, alternative housing, energy, medicine, labor, transportation, and communication. We have insights and talents to share

so please join us in celebrating our diverse, creative community! www.spiralliving.org

Oct. 9
****The 5th annual Upcycle Art & Furniture Contest:** Time to get busy. Judging for the 5th annual Upcycle Art & Furniture Contest is Oct. 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the Farmers’ Market. Remember – use junk – make something really cool; furniture must be sturdy. Judging and awards will be given at 5 p.m. You can sell your piece if you would like. Judging will be on creativity. You could win \$500 for 1st place, \$300 for second or \$200 for third.

****JOE’s Place Cave Junction is Open!** 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. Any questions, please email roger@joesplaceministries.org.

Ongoing
ATTENTION: **The Selma Center Food Pantry** is moving to Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. starting: July 18th.**If you are a volunteer or client, please help us spread the word!

***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.

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by I.V. News LLC
Daniel J. and Laura M. Mancuso, co-publishers

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.

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

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