

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



Before I talk about what I really want to say, here is a housekeeping reminder for all you dog owners out there. The Cave Junction City Council passed revisions to Ordinance No. 587 which set more clear and strict standards for leash laws in city limits. Your dog or dogs must be physically restrained on public property, or any public area by a leash, tether, or other physical control device and under the physical control of a capable person.

This weekend I had an out of town visitor who likes to hike. We went up to the Oregon Caves Cliff Nature Trail which was spectacular as usual. Then looking for something closer to home we went over to the Westside Trails Loop. The hike was great, but some people still don’t understand what “Pack it in, Pack it out” means. The park could also use some better maps. This is a real asset

in our backyard. Maybe it is time to do some community clean up and spruce up.

Saturday Cave Junction had its own Black Lives Matter (sometimes shortened to BLM, which puts a whole new meaning to the acronym) rally. From all accounts it was not one of Cave Junction’s finest moments. Not only do Black Lives Matter, but All Lives Matter.

When the Constitution of the United States of America was written 233 years ago, it started with “We the People.” That is a pretty inclusive term. Sometimes we forget that unless you are a Native American, we all are here because of immigrants. A lot has changed in our county over the last 200 years. Although the Constitution was written and signed by privileged white men, it is a document that has stood the test of time.

The first 10 amendments in the Constitution outline our Bill of Rights. The first amendment guarantees respect for religions, freedom of speech and the right to peaceably assemble and to petition the government. This also includes marching and picketing. The second amendment protects the collective right to a well-regulated militia to secure a free state. Although the individual right to own a firearm is sometime strongly debated, waving guns at each other never encourages dialogue. Cave Junction, we are better than that. United we stand and divided we fall. That applies not only to our country, but also in our community.

There is an election coming up in November. Register and exercise your right to vote. This is a privilege in our country that needs to be valued and protected.

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 says Dennis needs to move
Dear Laura, This letter is in response to Dennis Linthicum’s civil liberties complaint. Hey Linthicum, why don’t you just move to Florida and hang out with do-nothing Republicans like Governor DeSantis, where cases and deaths are over the

top. He’d love your company. The reasons, as you point out that we have so few cases and deaths is exactly because of what Kate Brown is doing to protect us. Your article sounded like an uneducated rant. I’ll bet you don’t wear a mask either.....BS

Patty and Ed Balzano
Cave Junction

Reader wants to clarify comment
In late June, after much discussion and deliberation, and observing the Chinese covid virus progression and state regulations for gathering we decided to cancel our Illinois Valley Lions Labor Day festival for 2020.

This was done solely in the interest of safety for our fellow citizens and we do not have enough members to monitor or regulate attendees adhering to safety guidelines. We have seen the recent spike attributed to folks relaxing social distancing, resistance to wearing a mask and travelers

from other states. I feel we made an intelligent decision.

In regard to the statement in the Aug. 19, I.V. News (page 10), “social and political unrest” had nothing to do with our decision, as the “peaceful demonstrations,” had not evolved into daily arson and riots yet. We absolutely intend to be back for 2021 and look forward to seeing all our friends.

While I am a 30-year member of the I.V. Lions, I am writing this as an individual and merely to clarify. Stay safe.

A big thanks to all our first responders and those essential workers.

Steve Lyons
Cave Junction

Laurel Cemetery Upgrade
After years of little or no management, a group has stepped up to the plate to bring the cemetery back into the good condition it deserves! Periodically over

the years, groups would put in a few hours or days to try and remove the brush, weeds, and fallen branches, but the property needs regular maintenance. The group led by Karen Delarme, Board of Directors and associates, are doing an outstanding job. The cemetery does not ‘belong’ to anyone except the Board of Directors and members of the association. If there is no Board, the cemetery does not function and falls into disrepair. When this Board took on the responsibility of the cemetery, in July 2019, they did not know of the debts against it, nor the equipment that was going to be needed to bring the property into good condition. Many records, furnishings and equipment have mysteriously disappeared. The community has donated tools needed to maintain the grounds and donations to pay most of the debts. However, there is a \$2,500 water bill debt owed to the city, which was caused

by vandalism in 2008. This amount was significantly reduced from the original loss. I hope the city will consider forgiving this debt. It happened 12 years ago and was not this Board’s fault. There are still many items to take care of to make this a properly functioning cemetery and a place where our community can go to remember their loved ones. Forgiving this debt would truly be a “good thing.”

Thank you,
Donna Zimmerman
Tellyer
Grants Pass

Local Radio Station KXCJ 105.7 fm
I’d like to express my gratitude for KXCJ, our local community radio station. We are so lucky to have a community radio station! It’s also streaming online at KXCJ.org.

The Board of this non-profit has done an amazing

job of supporting local voices and DJs. I especially appreciate their efforts to provide our community with a wide range of views and perspectives.

One of my favorite shows is called “BirdNote”. It comes on weekdays at 8:57 a.m. Only about one minute long, this delightful program hosts songs and stories about birds from near and far-away places. I may never get to see many of the birds featured, but I get to enjoy them through the medium of the radio. This program offers an insightful blend of bird science and sociology.

BirdNote.org reminds us to protect the habitats for birds wherever we live.

Thank you KXCJ, for this wonderful moment in my day each weekday!

Christine Perala
Gardiner
Cave Junction

Obituaries on A-3

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Save the date

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 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

Aug. 22

****ELOISE & POP’S Care Closet** will be at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 East River St. Saturday, Aug 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be setting up in the parking lot due to virus.

They will be bringing clothing for anyone in need of it - kids to adult size. They will also be passing out basic packs of school supplies. For any questions please feel free to contact Heather at 541-659-0579 or Dodie at 541-226-2756

Aug. 29
**** Caves of the World.** Learn about caves all over the world and some of what makes the Oregon Caves unique and special. Meeting at the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) 1241 Illinois River Road in Selma, Oregon. Meeting time: 6:30. 1-hour.

Sept. 30
**** 2020 U.S. Census** is due by Sept. 30. Please call 844-330-2020 for English, 844-468-2020 for Spanish or visit 2020census.gov.

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 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. **New this year Upcycle Kids Contest!** Same rules apply! \$100 prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (kids age 8-12 and \$50 prizes to 1st and 2nd places (kids under 8 years old).

I.V. Family Coalition COVID-19 pandemic closure updates:

- **The I.V. Family Coalition** (IVFC) Resource Center at 535 E. River St. is closed to public traffic. You can receive assistance from the IVFC by calling 541-592-6139 or email ivfc@frontiernet.net. Department of Human Services (DHS) has a service window you can walk up to.
- **UCAN** (United Community Action Network) services are available by phone at 541-956-4050 or visit their website at www.ucanap.org.
- **WIC** services are not open to public walk-ins. Services are offered over the phone. New clients are being accepted. Call 541-474-5333; WIC text is [jocwic](tel:5414745333) to 85511; or WIC email at wic@josephinecounty.gov. Check out their facebook page at facebook.com/josephinecountypublihealth.

Ongoing

**** The dog walking group** is open for more participants! Monday through Friday we walk our dogs either in town or at The Forks, from 9 a.m. to about 10:15 a.m. Our in-town walks feature stops at local businesses for dog treats. In the summer our Forks walks include a dog swim. Dogs must be vaccinated and masks are recommended. For more info. call or text Becky at 541-660-2032.

**** HIV Alliance** offers services in Cave Junction every Monday from noon – 3 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church (across from ShopSmart). Services include: Free and confidential HIV and Hep C testing. Needle Exchange and drop box (all syringes welcome), and overdose response and Naloxone training.

**** 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.

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4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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