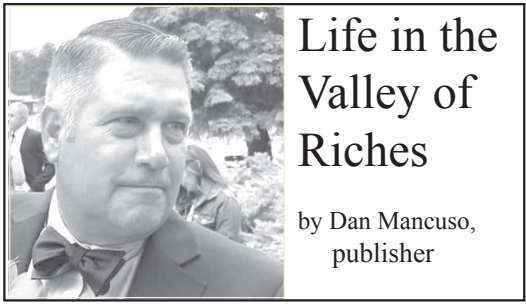




Life in the Valley of Riches

by Dan Mancuso, publisher

2021 is here and so far, it’s been good to us. Laura and I hit a relevant mark last week as we made the final payment on the Illinois Valley News. For the past 10 years we have been making payments on the portion of the paper that was financed. To have that burden off our shoulders is, well, breathtaking.

I could go on for a while about how this daunting milestone has been in front of me. At various points in this journey I wasn’t sure if the light at the end of the tunnel was just that, the end of the tunnel, other times I was positive it was a train, but we endured. I am proud of our accomplishment but we owe it all to you. I can’t thank you enough for believing in us enough to keep reading and advertising. And for some of you more cantankerous folks, I am glad we were able to help start your wood stove on cold nights, wrap your fish, paper train your puppy and cover the floor of your bird cage.

A few other things are better for me in 2021, I am reading books again. My eyesight had reached a point where reading books was a

chore. Unless I was outside in sunlight and had my glasses on it was all a blur. Yes, I know I have made fun of people who read from a Kindle. Yes, it’s still not a book, but I purchased one, and am on my fourth eBook since I fired it up on New Year’s Eve.

I got chickens, and I must say I am enthralled with them. Laura is a little jealous of how much time I spend with them and talk about them. Although, I sense she is thankful my midlife crisis only consists of a handful of chickens.

All in all, I have a bright outlook for 2021. After 2020 it shouldn’t take much to improve upon, but it’s up to a pretty good start. It has the markings of 2011, my first full year in the

Valley. The Green Bay Packers won the Super Bowl and I met Laura.

Many things have changed in the past 10 years, but my love for this Valley and its people has not diminished. I still look at the mountains and smile when I enter the section of the Redwood Highway known as Sauers Flat (big debate over Sauers vs. Sauer’s). I still love the diversity of people here, even if I don’t agree with some of their perspectives. I still love the rivers and the wines. I still love to call this place home.

Thank you for keeping me, thank you for picking up this week’s paper and GO Pack GO!! ~ djm

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



I started this week with good news and some bad news. The good news first. Monday began with the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a day of reflection, service and hope about how one person can make a difference. Other good news- Josephine County will be giving at least 3,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 24 and 25 at the County Fairgrounds and Illinois Valley High School. The vaccine will be available to all Phase 1a individuals, including teachers and school staff members serving students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Group 1a includes categories such as hospitals, health care providers, EMS, residential care facilities, group homes, hospice programs, and caregivers of medically fragile children or adults who live at home. For more specific category information and exact times, go to co.josephine.or.us/COVID19.

Now, the not so good news. Josephine

County, as of Jan. 17, had a total of 1,735 positive cases and 33 deaths. At least 80 of those cases are in zip code 97523, so you probably know someone who has it. Josephine County, and 26 other Oregon counties, are still in the Extreme Risk category, the level with the highest restrictions. COVID is here and increasing every day. The first cases of the more infectious COVID variant B.1.1.7, has been detected in the United States and on the West Coast. It is more important than ever, that we all do our part to get this virus under control.

I have been taking some time to meet with city staff to talk about how they feel about their jobs and what they need to support them. I am impressed with the quality of employees that keep Cave Junction services running. We are fortunate to have a professional staff who are committed, know their jobs and are eager to improve.

Despite COVID challenges facing us in 2021, I want to see our city not only working towards recovery, but also to taking steps to move forward. At the City Council Zoom Workshop, Monday Jan. 25, we are going to discuss project priorities for this year. Some of the ideas under discussion are the Oregon Main Street Program and downtown beautification, reviewing our City Charter last updated in 1980, more activities for our youth, Jubilee Park, county “islands” within the city, downtown business cameras, and an emergency preparedness planning. This is a big list that council needs to prioritize. Let me know what you think the important priorities are for moving Cave Junction forward. Please email me at meadow.martell@cavejunctionoregon.us or leave a message at 541-287-0044.

Obituaries

Ryan P. Petersen, 42, of Cave Junction, died Jan. 7, 2021 at his home. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors in charge of arrangements.

John Gibson, 85, of Cave Junction, died Jan. 16, 2021 at his home. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors in charge of arrangements.

Michael Kennedy died Dec. 30, 2020 in Prospect, Ore. Michael was born April 11, 1946 in Indio, Calif. He grew up in the Illinois Valley and attended Kerby Elementary and Illinois Valley High School. Survivors include: sons Bill, Shanon and Brian; daughter Dakota; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers Richard, Dennis, Herby; and sister Maureen. He was preceded in death by his parents Milton and Marion Kennedy; brother David Kennedy; sister Kathleen Kennedy (Field); and daughter Shonda Marie Kennedy. There will be a private service at a later date.

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.)

Dylan, DEQ,

You know what’s causing the mass contamination of our water supply?

Over-thinning of the filtration system that is our forests! Then you add tons of poisons, courtesy of private timber and ODF and what do we get? Toxic soup!

What good does the deq and EPA do if all they do is turn a blind eye to the crimes committed by the timber industry?

Our water supply is being destroyed and you people are responsible for making sure our water, soil

and air are protected?

It’s obvious that no one cares about anything but their paycheck. It’s obvious that the corruption of our country is systemic.

I’m sick and tired of the “do as I say, not as I do” law enforcement. Because if I, Joe blow citizen, committed these crimes, I’d be paying for the damages for the rest of my life.

Why aren’t the rich and powerful paying for the crimes they’re committing? Because they provide jobs? Really? For how much longer do you think our water will be available once our forests are gone? How much longer before it becomes so toxic that nothing will be able to drink it?

Why is our tax dollars paying you to help these criminals to destroy our water supply? Then add the criminal acts committed by federal forestry and BLM. I swear that the deq, EPA, BLM and forestry were created by the people for the sole purpose of stopping industry from destroying all our resources and poisoning them all before they’re gone. Am I wrong?

Nina Horsley
Cave Junction

Save the date

Jan. 20
Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2021 *Cris Matthew’s would like to invite anyone interested in **toasting President Biden’s victory and inauguration** to meet at Forks Park at 9 a.m. Masks and social distancing suggested. Bring your own Champagne or beverage. Let’s celebrate!

Feb. 14
Please join Historic Laurel Cemetery Association for a Valentine’s Day box lunch and gift bag fundraiser. Hosted by Historic Laurel Cemetery Association Sunday, Feb. 14 from 1 – 4 p.m. bid online at the Historic Laurel Cemetery Association Facebook page or bid at the chapel , 1090 Laurel Rd.

****Register for SUN School Winter** and Spring sessions! Grades 1-8. Online. Free. Winter sessions are the four Fridays of February (Winter theme: Constellations!). Spring sessions are four Fridays in April (Spring theme: A Trip Around Our Natural Neighborhood). Visit our

Facebook page for the registration links: facebook.com/SunSchoolinIV or contact the SUN School Coordinator, Kaci Elder: SUNSchoolAtRusk@gmail.com, 541-363-8806. This is the sixth year of SUN School, a program of Rusk Ranch Nature Center in Cave Junction. Donations are always (greatly) appreciated.

Tuesdays
Food Pantry New Hours: Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cave Junction Seventh Day Adventist Church Reopens its Dorcas/Community Services Center, 265 South Old Stage Road in Assistance to everyone, with no church attendance required. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all food will be pre-boxed. After this crisis, the food pantry staff hopes to return to a “shopping model,” where clients may select the foods they prefer. In the future the CJSDA Community Services Center will also offer clothing, houseware and hygiene items. People wishing to make contributions to this effort, as volunteers or in donations to feed local people, are encouraged to contact Patti Delk at patti47delk@

gmail.com or to send a check to the Cave Junction Seventh Day Adventist Church marked “food pantry” to PO Box 330, Cave Junction, OR, 97523.

Wedensdays

Community Grieving Circles will be a weekly recurring gathering, every Wednesday starting at 4p.m. we hold space for eachother; to speak our grief and sorrows. We come together, via Zoom, innon-judgment and respect as we uniquely and authentically honor loss in itsmany shapes and forms. By gathering in community, we can make space for ourselves and each other to process and transform our individual grief, together. This will be co-lead by Angela and Michael Franklin, of Crossroads Community DeathCare. We will be utilizing various exercises incorporating meditation, story and ritual. If you would like to participate or have questions please email:crossroadsdeathcare@gmail.com. Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81729740383?pwd=blhUSGV6SnhlQWpLZlZjVFJVaWpJUT09Meeting ID: 817 2974

0383, Passcode:508391. Donations welcome, but not required.Paypal email: crossroadsdeathcare@gmail.com.

Ongoing

**** 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.

**** 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.

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 219 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

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.

