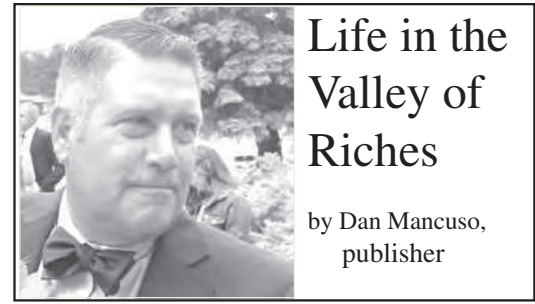




Life in the Valley of Riches

by Dan Mancuso, publisher

Sometimes I have use my judgement to make decisions about what is in the best interest of our community.

Recently, the Illinois Valley News received a letter to the editor that espouse the rhetoric of QAnon conspiracy theorists as fact. While I respect the right of people to have their own opinions, I cannot in good conscious be a

tool in the spread of misinformation. Especially in times like these when media bashing is in fashion.

I find it humorous when people use random internet websites as proof of factual evidence supporting their opinions. Some don't believe what they read in The New York Times, yet they find information on www.tinfoilhatsociety.com and believe it is truly factual.

When you quote one page of a 700-page document, it is out of context at best. Citing a notoriously anti-mask, COVID-denying, hydroxychloroquine-pushing website is what's called "conformational bias."

Conformational bias is when you interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories.

My concern is not that some people feel questionable information is real, it's that they want me to print it. I feel it would be dangerous for me to print links to such sites. "Well, I read it in the local paper," a reader might say. So, in effect, I am culpable in the spread of misinformation.

I offered the letter writer a chance to rework her letter, but she declined. I wish she had, but it's her right to take a pass.

We live in interesting times when it comes to factual information. Do you want to cook carbonaro? Google it. "How do I replace the headlight in my car?" YouTube will show you. "What's this growth on my chicken?" It's all on the internet. If you are arguing over who had the highest ERA against left-handed batters in

National League parks, you might struggle to find that info, but I'm sure it's out there if you search correctly.

But the internet has become a dark place too. A place where you can find almost anything you want to read - anything that confirms your beliefs. This is where the round pegs in square holes can find mutual opinions to collectively pontificate with. Sadly, it also breeds misinformation and discontent.

Here at the Illinois Valley News we print news about your family and neighbors and things that occur in our Valley. You may not like what we choose to cover, you may even deny its factual basis, but in the words of the late John McCain, "You are entitled to your own opinions, not your own set of facts."

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to laura@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.)

Community Member Asks a Favor – Come Visit the Kerbyville Museum in 2021!

Many local people know me as the Historian at the Kerbyville Museum & History Center where I have volunteered full time since my retirement in 2006.

History is about people and how they got through tough times whether it was going on the 1,500 mile journey on The Oregon Trail in the 1800's, or like my late parents who sold the only house they would ever own in Illinois and packed up two streamer trucks and us four kids and headed to a new life in Oregon in June 1955.

On February 8, medical test revealed that I have B Cell Lymphoma

– Cancer of the Lymph Nodes with a hand-sized tumor on my right-side colon. When the C.T. Scan was sent to an Oncologist (Cancer Doctor) in Medford, it was decided that Chemo Treatments (five cancer drugs every 21 days) over the next six months would help shrink the tumor down until it literally melts away!

If this was found 25-30 years ago, I would have been "history" but thanks to modern medical research, there is a 90% chance of survival once I get through the Chemo Treatments.

Because of my illness and year-long recovery, I will not be at the museum this year. I would like to ask a favor. The Kerbyville Museum & History Center is a magical place! There is no other place like it where

a person can literally "step back in time" to learn about people of the past. Various exhibits honor Native Peoples, Gold Miners, Loggers and Pioneers - all of whom helped make the Illinois Valley a special place to live in.

There are several new exhibits including "Women At War" to honor the women who stepped forward during World War II, when all the able-bodied men went off to fight in the war, and women began working in the war production factories building planes, bombs, tanks, etc. Whatever was needed to win World War II.

World War II was also the first time in American history where women could join the United States Military to serve in non-combat jobs and this exhibit also honors those women

who served in the U.S. Women Army Corps (WAC's), U.S. Navy Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), and the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

The museum does not receive one cent of tax based funding. Its primary funding comes from museum admission fees. Without people coming into the museum and paying their admission fees (very reasonable) the museum may close! Please consider stopping by when the museum opens April 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 2021 museum will be open from Thursdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thanks for your help.

Dennis H. Strayer, Kerbyville Museum Historian

Obituaries

Lloydeen Kay Davis, 81, crossed over the Rainbow Bridge March 6, 2021. She is now with her beloved husband of 55 years, Theodore W. Davis, Jr, who preceded her in death.

Lloydeen was born in Susanville, Calif. Nov. 18, 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Wanda Philipsen.

She was a Polio survivor due to the great doctors at the Shriners Hospital for Children! Lloydeen was forever grateful to everyone that helped her while she was at the Shriners Hospital and wished she had an endowment to leave them.

Lloydeen's life mission was to help people, especially children! She worked for the

Three Rivers School District as a Kindergarten Packet Teacher for many years. Then she opened her own private kindergarten and preschool in Kerby. She ran "A Time for Playing and Learning" for 15 years.

Mrs. Davis was also on the Illinois Valley Fire Department Board of Directors for many years and fed the firefighters whenever they had a Burn to Learn or a big fire! She was also a Girl Scout leader, a volunteer at the Kerbyville Museum, and both local Food Banks. All of the ways that Mrs. Davis helped her community is too long to list here!

Lloydeen is survived by

her three daughters: Lynsta Bemis, Katrina Davis and Trinalyn Wilson; her sons-in-law Steve Bemis and Scott Wilson; and her three grandchildren: Brian Bemis, Heather Bemis, and Adam Wilson. Her sister Wanema Chatham preceded her in death.

Lloydeen, a devout Quaker, wrote this: "God gave me the Gift of Life, what I do with that gift, is My Gift to him!"

Anyone that would like to make a donation in Lloydeen's name, we have two suggestions:

1) Shriners Hospital for Children at: <https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/shc/donate>

Shriners Hospitals for Children Processing Center PO Box 863765 Orlando, FL 32886

2) Evergreen Elementary School (cash or check) with the notation: "For Lloydeen's Books for Children Fund", 520 W. River St. Cave Junction, OR. 97523.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be an official service. Her ashes have been interred at the Eagle Point National Cemetery with her husband. The gates are always open for those who wish to make a personal visit.

Eric C. Peterson, 49, of O'Brien, died March 30, 2021 in O'Brien. He was born in Crescent City, California April 17, 1971 to the late Charles and Wanda Peterson.

Shortly after, the family picked up and moved to Tacoma, Washington for work. In 1987 they moved to Cave Junction, graduating from Illinois Valley High School in 1989. In 2002 he moved to Raeford, North Carolina to work as a truck driver, something he loved to do. He returned to Cave Junction 14 years later to reside with his father.

Eric enjoyed going fishing and camping. He

loved hanging with his family and friends. He was driven and loved to work and drive trucks.

Eric is preceded in death by his parents Charles and Wanda Peterson; Charlotte Peterson.

He leaves behind his sister Lorraine O'Neill San Antonio, Texas; nieces Kristen Guyer, Rebecca Nash, Amanda Peterson; nephews Kevin Guyer, Cody Kerttula; as well as several great nieces and nephews.

Illinois Valley Funeral Directors in charge of arrangements.



Note to Readers

Due to JoCo "high risk" category for COVID-19 mandated by the Oregon Health Authority - You must wear a mask to enter offices such as the I.V. News and City Hall. The city of Cave Junction will be open Monday - Wednesday for those wearing a mask. You can call City Hall for an appointment at 541-592-2156. Need a paper, call the I.V. News office at 541-592-2541. Masks required. Thank you for understanding.



Save the date

April 10 Kerbyville Museum Opening

To express our appreciation to the Illinois Valley community for your support, the museum is offering a "FREE DAY" to the community April 10 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. This includes a tour of the museum, including the new exhibits for 2021, including "Women at War" honoring women who served both in and out of the military during times of war. In addition, the updated displays in the rest of the museum buildings are included, such as the Prairie Schooner wagon and others. Current COVID restrictions will be observed. Please bring your mask!

Ongoing / Through May 31

****Cobra Lily:** a review of southwest Oregon literature & art seeks work for the 7th annual issue. Cobra Lily is a print publication celebrating our region. Send fiction, poetry, memoir, essays, regional history, photography, paintings, illustration, and more (don't feel the need to limit yourself to these genre categories). Deadline is May 31. Email cobralilyreview@gmail.com or visit leftforkbooks.com/cobralily for more information.

April 16-17

****Garage Sale:** Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Bridgeview Community Church

On the corner of Dick George and Holland Loop.

April 18

****Historic Laurel Cemetery Association** board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, 2021 @ 6 p.m. in the cemetery chapel. Public is welcome to attend. Membership in the HLCA is available. Hope to see you there.

****Register for SUN School** Spring sessions! Grades 1-8. Online. Free. 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: SUNSchooAtRusk@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.

Ongoing

****A PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB for teens** is forming in Cave Junction! We'll start with socially-distanced outdoor hikes, to look for great photo opportunities. Future activities will include indoor editing collaborations, guest speakers, and a photo show and contest. Please contact CJCameraClub@gmail.com if you might be interested in joining us!

Tuesdays

****Food Pantry New Hours: Tuesdays 10 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. **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 SDA Church marked "food pantry" to PO Box 330, Cave Junction, OR, 97523.

****Every Tuesday at 6 p.m., an online Community Grieving Circle** is held through Zoom. This gathering is to honor our loss in all its many shapes and forms. This is a space to process our individual grief together. If you have questions or would like to join, email: crossroadsdeathcare@gmail.com or call 541-450-5336. Facilitated by Angela and Michael Franklin of Crossroads Community DeathCare.

**** 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.

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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

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