

## From the mayor's desk: by Meadow Martell



Can you believe this weather? On Sunday, the thermometer on the north side of

my house registered 84 degrees in the shade. The average April high in Cave Junction is 68 degrees. So please, please be extra careful. The potential for fire danger already feels high to me. Josephine County has already had three fires. On April 14, the Tarter Gulch Fire, about nine miles from Cave Junction was completely lined at 20 acres. Thank you, I.V. Fire District, for being so on top of watching out for our community, for both fires and accidents.

Friday, April 16, spraying for weed management happened in the city. Greenway Spray, a licensed, experienced, family owned and operated business in Southern Oregon, completed the spraying process in record time with no problems. One of our Public Works staff accompanied them to make sure everything went smoothly.

Every year I receive a few letters about the use of glyphosates in the city. The letters are not friendly and use words like "inept," "willful malice" and "blind indifference." I have quit responding and here is why - there seems to be little or no interest in being part of a solution. There are only demands.

If you know me, I am an organic gardener and I do not use or condone the use of chemicals. However, as mayor of Cave Junction, I have a responsibility to all the residents in the city, especially when changes have the potential of costing taxpayers more money. I especially feel sensitive about single handedly initiating a change of this size because I did not campaign on this issue.

From the research I have done on small cities that have implemented changes (there are not many), there is no easy, quick,

inexpensive fix to phase out inorganic chemicals for weed management. A change of this magnitude requires a lot of community support and possibly more money, equipment, and staff. It took the city of Talent several years of community-wide interest and discussion and seven focused months of meeting, studying, drafting, learning, and trial and error, before the city council adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan in 2018. It then took another three years to phase out synthetic pesticides.

If a group of Cave Junction residents are willing to step up, do the research, both pro and con, look at the costs and impacts for a city our size and can come up with alternatives that will convince our city council, you have my support.

## Obituaries

**Robert A. Boock, 74**, of Cave Junction, died April 5, 2021 at his home.

Arrangements by Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

**Greg Bryan Coatney, 49**, of Cave Junction, died April 13, 2021 at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements by Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

**Charles Peter Johnson, 81**, known to most by "Pete," died at Three Rivers Community Hospital, April 16, 2021. He was born

Sept. 12, 1939 to parents, Charles Clifford Johnson and Margaret Esther Leatham Johnson of Takilma, Ore. Pete spent his growing up years, here in the Illinois Valley attending first-12th grades and proud he was of being an IVHS graduate in '57. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp returning back to his family's way of life - logging while learning and gaining knowledge in mechanics. Pete moved to Crescent City, where he owned two fishing boats and Walt's Club Tavern. But it was the call of the Alaska Pipe Line and the high paying jobs that lead him north. He

worked all 11 years, from start to finish as a master mechanic working the heavy equipment on the Pipe Line on the northern most post. Pete also spent some time at one of the bigger Alaska gold mines, until a former boss invited him to a dam job in Phoenix, Ariz. When he retired, the Illinois Valley then became his home again. He leaves behind nephews, Richard Johnson of Lostine, Ore. and Terry Johnson of Homer, Ark.; a niece, Donna Doyle of Walla Walla, Wash.; and companion, Charlene Hickerson.



Pete Johnson

## Cattle in Oregon again found dead amid strange circumstances

PRINEVILLE, Ore. (AP) — Cattle in Oregon are again showing up dead under strange circumstances.

Over the past three months, seven animals have been found mutilated on ranch land in central Oregon's Crook County, the Northwest News Network reported Tuesday. In most cases, the dead animal's sex organs, tongue or eyes are cut away cleanly and there is no blood.

The cases call to mind similar

discoveries of five mutilated bulls in 2019 in Harney County, where five bulls were found dead in a 2-mile radius with their sex organs and tongues removed. There have also been cases in recent years in Wasco, Umatilla, Wheeler and Lake counties in recent years. There have also been cases reported in Arizona.

Similar cases of mutilated livestock and even elk and deer have surfaced periodically across the country and, in the 1970s, a

rash of livestock mutilations across the U.S. West and Midwest struck fear in rural areas.

Thousands of cattle and other livestock ranging from Minnesota to New Mexico were found dead with their reproductive organs and sometimes part of their faces removed.

In the current Oregon cases, the sheriffs from several affected counties are trying to coordinate and share information, the network reported. Harney County in 2019

also worked with the Oregon State Police to try to crack the mystery.

The theories range from scavengers such as carrion bugs eating the carcasses to people attacking the animals to cause financial harm to ranchers.

"It's upsetting, because, again, it's our livelihood. It's how they make their money and how they feed their families and support themselves," Crook County Undersheriff James Savage said of the ranchers who lost animals most

recently.

Savage said in such a vast, rural county it's hard to solve such cases — and there's very little physical evidence.

"In a lot of cases we come down, it's a burglary or theft or whatever," he said. "We have suspects. We catch something on camera, or someone sees something, or witnesses something. But this is so rural, it's just very tough to piece it together."

## Save the date

### April 24

Please pass the word to your friends that there will be a follow-up FREE Covid vaccination clinic this coming Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Family Coalition parking lot, 535 E River Street in Cave Junction. People who got the first shot on April 3 can get their second shot and anyone over 16 can get their first shot.

### 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.

### Ongoing / Through April 22

Celebrate "Earth Month" with Spiral Living Center! Bid on a variety of handmade items from local and global artisans in our

Virtual Auction open now until 8 p.m. April 22. Your donations will directly contribute to helping us expand our programs in 2021, such as the IV Gleaning Project, IV Bikespace, and our new Earth Scouts! school. Help us raise \$1.5k by Earth Day! Visit [www.32auctions.com/SLCEarthDayAuction](http://www.32auctions.com/SLCEarthDayAuction) to bid. For more info on our work, visit [www.spiralliving.org](http://www.spiralliving.org).

### April

\*\*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](https://facebook.com/SunSchoolinIV) or contact the SUN School Coordinator, Kaci Elder: [SUNSchoolAtRusk@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Ongoing

\*\*APHOTOGRAPHY 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Illinois Valley News

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'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.