

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



I hope everyone had a fun Fourth of July. It was good to be outside celebrating again with friends. Thank you, everyone, who

exercised restraint about fireworks during this hot and dry season. I am sure our busy fire fighters appreciated it. Currently one of the hot topics I hear about in the city is the bulk water station. Prior to 2018 the city allowed some residents in Cave Junction with wells that ran dry in the summer to pull off water from fire hydrants and then report the amount used. The city is required to account for all the water it produces and sells. A significant portion of our water comes from the Illinois River and this water right use is very closely monitored. At some

point during this time significant discrepancies started showing and in 2018 the Council decided to put in a bulk water station to more accurately charge and account for bulk water. Not all bulk water sales can be attributed to grow operations. Some people need water for personal use and some private property wells go dry in the summer. However, there has been a significant increase in the sale of bulk water since the station was installed. In 2018, 898,000 gallons of water were sold. In 2020 this grew to over one million gallons.

There is some concern about the number of illegal grow operations in the Illinois Valley and whether selling bulk water contributes to this problem. It is not possible for the city to determine where bulk water sales are going. The recent increase in the use of the bulk water station has not been individuals, but in the number of water companies who contract and distribute to multiple sites. If they cannot get water in Cave Junction, then they will be going to Grants Pass. If growers cannot purchase water, then it is possible more water will be illegally taken from the river.

Controlling illegal grows is a state and county responsibility. Kudos to the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office and the Oregon State Police for the recent illegal cannabis raids and seizures. That is a stronger message we need to see more of in Southern Oregon. The city is also very aware of concerns about the location of the bulk water station and the impact it has on the neighborhood. It is one of our highest priorities to relocate the station to a safer place that can handle the increased traffic. We are hoping to have the funding to start this project soon.

Josephine County announces death of COVID-19 patient

JOSEPHINE COUNTY, Ore. — A Josephine County individual has died from complications relating to a COVID-19 infection. An 84-year-old man tested positive for COVID-19 Dec. 2, 2020, and died Jan. 13 at Yuma Regional Medical Center in Yuma, Arizona. He had underlying conditions. Josephine County now has a total of 77 COVID-19-related deaths. Of those patients, 76 died from complications relating to COVID-19 infections.

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.) Kudo’s to our law enforcement agencies On behalf of so many residents of Josephine County, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Sheriff Daniel and all of the coordinating enforcement agencies that have come together to bust a bunch of very large illegal cannabis grows here recently.

These huge illegal grows are such a nightmare, on so many fronts, that they need to be taken out. Even with very limited resources, these agencies have already made an impact and when HB 3000 is implemented, more resources will become available to fight this menace. The time has come to clear out this illegal trash, and get our county back. Please support these efforts any way you can. Brad Vincent, O Brien

Obituaries

Edward Fairley Atkin, 93, of Grants Pass, died June 30, 2021 at his home.

Read, Reuse & Recycle

Save the date

SUN School, Rusk Ranch Nature Center’s child-centered experiential nature camp, returns for our 6th summer. We will continue to meet online for 2021, which makes it possible for children to join from outside the Illinois Valley. There are two age-based groups: Dragonfly Circle and Adventure Club. Cost: Free. Registration is required and space is limited.Register at ruskranchnature-center.org. Dragonfly Circle (for children entering grades 1-3 for the 2021-2022 school year) July 6 - 29, Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-10:45 a.m. Online with Zoom Adventure Club (for children entering grades 4-8 for the 2021-2022 school year) July 9 - 30, Fridays 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Online with Zoom Campers will receive a SUN School Box filled with nature and art supplies, a camper t-shirt, and curriculum materials. SUN School Boxes can be picked up Tuesday, June 29 from 12-2 p.m. at Rusk Ranch Nature Center, 27746 Redwood Highway in Cave Junction. For questions, please contact the SUN School Coordinator, Kaci Elder, at SUN-SchoolAtRusk@gmail.com or 541-363-8806.

July 13

Tuesday, July 13 : Dying in the Illinois Valley: A workshop exploring one’s options for final disposition, natural burials, home burials and home funerals. This is led by Angela Franklin of Crossroads Community DeathCare, 6 p.m. at the Earth Scouts Sky Lodge, 9044 Takilma Rd. Sliding scale \$5-10 email: crossroadsdeathcare@gmail.com

July 25

GRAND GALLERY REOPENING! The Southern Oregon Guild of Artists & Artists celebrates opening its doors and pre-

senting the first post-pandemic arts showcase in over a year, “Bursting Forth, Moving Forward.” Presenting a wide collection of work by local Guild members, this show highlights creations made during our collective time of isolation and as we welcome a new beginning. Come join our OPENING PARTY on Sunday July 25 from 4-6 p.m., featuring live music, delicious appetizers, and refreshments. Free admission. The Guild Gallery & Art Center is located in the Kerby Belt Building at 24353 Redwood Highway Kerby, OR 97531. For more information on gallery retail hours and ongoing workshops, call 541-659-3858 or visit us online at www.southernoregonguild.org.

Aug. 7

“Wine Stroll” Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Downtown, Grants Pass Calling all wine lovers!!! Tickets are now available for the Annual Wine Stroll. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to stroll last year. We are eager to resume hosting this wonderful event for our community.

The Wine Stroll is hosted by the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce. For over 20 years this special event has been held in beautiful downtown Grants Pass. Participants stroll from location-to-location sampling amazing wine and delicious food. The Stroll is set for Aug. 7, 4 p.m.-8: p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.grantspasschamber.org or at the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce. Pricing: \$35 Pre-Sale and \$40 Day-Of if any remain.... Price includes commemorative glass, re-usable tote bag and an event map. Check-In Location Change: Day of the event Check-in will be at Elegance Antiques- 311 SE 6th St, from 2 p.m until 5 p.m. Host locations and Wineries will be released at a later date. Please note this is a 21 and over event and each participant must personally check in with a valid ID. OLCC regulations also

stipulate that children may not accompany adults attending this event.

Aug. 24

Tuesday, Aug 24: Death Sovereignty/ Advance Healthcare Directives: A workshop to understand how one can have autonomy through the end of life by utilizing legal documents to help appoint advocates and make healthcare wishes clear. This is especially important to those in the queer community and people estranged from family. 6pm at the Earth Scouts Sky Lodge, 9044 Takilma Rd Sliding Scale \$5-10 email: crossroadsdeathcare@gmail.com

Oct. 8

UPCYCLE ART: Wondering what to do with all that junk? Instead of taking it to the landfill, consider making something special for the 6th Annual Upcycle Art and Furniture Contest! Prizes range from \$50 to \$500 (with categories for kids and adults) and will take place at 24100 Redwood Highway at the Farmers’ Market, October 8th. New this year, come join the trash fashion show! Furniture must be sturdy and clothing wearable. Judging is on creativity and not fine craftsmanship, so think outside the box and make something cool!

Ongoing

**FOOD PANTRY Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cave Junction Adventist/Community Services Food Distribution, 265 S. Old Stage Rd. Volunteers are needed to help stock, date check, sort food, pack boxes and handout food boxes, etc. to volunteer please email cavejunctionacs@gmail.com. Contributions can be made out to the CJ Seventh-day Adventist Church and identify that they are in support of the Community Service by writing “CJACS” in the memo section of your check. Mail to: Cave Junction Seventh-day Adventist Church PO Box 330, Cave

Junction, OR 97523

** 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.

*** MONDAYS Neighborhood and Community Watch Meeting / then a public forum Mondays through July, 5-6 p.m. at Wild River Pizza in CJ, backroom, monthly meeting check-in 7/13. All Watch Group leaders. Fire Season briefing, emergency preparedness, 2-way radios available, Alert notification system via text using GroupMe signup. RSVP if you can. Weekly meetings will follow, SD&T. ivemedia/iv-watch.

Then from 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. is a public forum, topics: illegal grows, water - drought, homelessness, COVID-19. Also hosted via ZOOM and by phone at Wild Rivers, all welcome. Guenter @ 541-415-1929, ZOOM login info. Also at: www.ivemedia.org/iv-watch

Free Classified Ads for personals call 541-592-2541

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

AP

AP EXCHANGE

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.