

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



There is no better stress reliever than hanging out with a 6-month-old happy baby. After a week in Austin with my niece, her husband, and Jackson, I came back home relaxed, contented, and ready to get back to work. Catching up on my emails has taken me several days and my schedule is filling up with a variety of meetings and activities. Now that we are in the Omicron “new normal,” I would like to restart the regular hours I used to have at City Hall on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons as an opportunity for scheduling meetings at my office. A reminder that masks are required when entering City Hall.

The Main Street Cave Junction organization is cooking up some event possibilities for spring that will be fun and encourage people to come downtown. A lot of this planning work will happen in committees.

Tired of living in a place that is the “bad boy” of Josephine County? We have an infinite pool of potential resources and positive experiences to choose from and you are one of them. Call Rowan Fairfield, 541-415-6767 and get on the list.

Winter is a good time for the Streets/ Distribution/Collections department to do annual repairs and maintenance in preparation for the busy work season. Some examples:

- Beginning early February our SDC team will be flow testing and valve exercising the 147 fire hydrants in the city.
- The Taylor’s Sausage construction project is on hold to do some catch up on necessary engineering issues. The city will be putting in a new 2” water service line and a 4” fire water line for this project.
- The street sweeper is back from repairs. You should see it on the streets again soon.

- Bids for the Watkins & Hwy 199 water line replacement and ADA ramps are going out to bid.
- The city performs annual manhole and sewer line inspections for the DEQ annual report. You may see staff out looking into manholes. Sewer line inspections are done with a 360-degree camera mounted on a dozer like machine that crawls into the lines and transmits a picture. Pretty cool. The city’s old machine is obsolete, and we are getting some demonstrations of better equipment.

If you are interested in more detailed information about emergency management, sign up for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Media Monitoring Report at oregon.oem@public.govdelivery.com. This report is a snapshot of news coverage about a wide variety of disaster response and recovery issues. Be safe out there.

Obituaries

Raymond “Rocky” Jones left us Dec. 3, 2021. He was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa Feb. 2, 1929 to Raymond Nelson Sr. and Rachel (Grabill) Nelson. After the death of his father, his last name was changed when he was adopted by his stepfather, Fred E. Jones. He grew up in Iowa and California, moving to Oregon with his family in 1945. Rocky attended Kerby Union High School with the Class of 1947, quitting school in his junior year to join the Navy. He served 1946 to 1948. He returned to Cave Junction in 1956, married Sara Hoskins and together they raised two children Tresa (Jones) Apke, DVM, of Carlton, Ore. and Morgan Jones (deceased 2017). Rocky owned “Two Rivers Construction” and built or remodeled many homes in the Valley. Through the years, Rocky had many interests: he obtained his

GED in 1969, Boy Scouts leader for a mounted troop, square dancing caller, Master Gardner, manufacturer of cedar arrow shafts, a participant in many Labor Day Parades with his horse, and later his tractor. He wrote a poem which was published in a national magazine, as well as many “Do It Yourself” articles for the I.V. News. He was involved in many service groups including I.V. Lions, Josephine County Search and Rescue, and the U.S. Coast Guard Axillary where he taught boat safety and patrolled lakes (retiring after 20 years). He also taught boat classes and proctored exams for the Oregon State Marine Board. Besides his wife and daughter, Rocky is survived by five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, and sister Velora Amaqua (1988).

A celebration of Rocky’s life will be held outdoors at his home Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022 from 2 - 4 p.m.. Call 541-592-3609 for directions.

Rocky - docked his last boat -- parked his last tractor -- and walked into the sunset -- he will be missed.

Daniel William Beal unexpectedly and peacefully died at his home in Kerby, Ore. Jan. 16, 2022. Dan was born Sept. 29, 1945 in Meriden, Conn., the son of Charles and Barbara Schlette Beal.

Dan was a 1963 graduate of Maloney High School where he was an honor student.

He received an Engineering degree from the University of CT and worked at United Technologies in the aerospace industry where he was granted patents in

electrochemistry.

A free spirit, Dan then chose to relocate to the Northwest, settling in Kerby, Ore. where he established himself as a well-liked and respected figure in the community. He was known for his artistry which was often on display for all to enjoy.

Dan’s love for natural wonders was often expressed through his working of metals into beautiful life size renderings of the magnificent creatures of the Northwest. These lovely pieces are a lasting testament to a man who truly walked his own path.

Dan is survived by his three loving brothers, Charles of Old Lyme, Conn., David, of Hingham, Mass. and Michael of Middletown, Conn.; and his dearest friend, Joe Vigorito of, Kerby. Dan’s faithful dog, Woody awaits the day he joins his kind and loving person.

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 response to weekly front page article.

This is a request to the IV newspaper to stop the

blatant scare tactic of putting on the front page (or any other page) of every issue “Josephine County announces deaths of COVID-19 patients“. Each entry always includes whether the deceased “had been vaccinated for COVID-19“, or “had not been vaccinated for COVID-19“. What is the purpose of that? A death is a death. The cat is out of the bag. The vaccinated also contract and transmit the virus.

Stop promoting fear, it divides people.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky admits that about 40% of COVID-19 hospitalized patients tested positive but do not have symptoms and are hospitalized for something else.

If they die they are counted as a COVID-19

death, when actually they died “with COVID” instead of “from COVID”.

Most of I.V. newspaper COVID-19 death reports also note that the deceased had “underlying conditions“.

Rochelle Walensky has also stated that “the overwhelming number of COVID-19 deaths, over 75%, occurred in people who had at least four co-morbidities. So really these are people who were unwell to begin with“.

The NIH says that nearly 2/3 of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the U.S. could be attributed to four conditions. They are, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and heart failure. These medical conditions put people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. The NIH also concludes that Vitamin D status appears to be strongly

associated with COVID-19 clinical severity.

Why not write articles on ways that people can strengthen their immune system with Vitamin D and other supplements to fight off COVID-19 and other viruses? Also, ways to promote preventative lifestyle measures such as improved dietary quality and physical activity.

In my opinion these would be much more helpful articles than sensationalizing death.

Linda Blevins Cave Junction
(Editor’s reponse: I am sorry this writer does not read our Senior Spotlight on A-6, printed weekly, and has missed our Wholesome Foods and Health Highlights articles.)

Reader claims Boersma ignores safety

As the powers that be determine whether to allow HHRs at the Flying Lark, we should think about how a racino will affect the safety of our county’s largest highway. Has anyone considered the serious danger of the Flying Lark’s main egress being Redwood Highway? This is already one of the deadliest thoroughfares in the nation. What’s going to happen to the wreck and fatality rate if this establishment is allowed to open with the full capacity to encourage people to gamble and drink for hours on end? Is Boersma going to use some of his billions to build a 24/7 parking area where tired gamblers can sleep it off? Or is he just planning to tear down our community’s

YMCA to build a hotel? We shouldn’t rely on this kind of venture to bring jobs to our area, not with the risks it poses for commuters and other travelers between the Illinois Valley and Grants Pass.

Kayla Rau Selma

Thanks Mom

I read an anti-vaxxer letter to the editor in the Jan. 19 edition of the Illinois Valley News and was reminded of sage wisdom my dear mother imparted to me as a child. Mom always said, “Son keep your mouth shut and people will only think you’re a moron, open it and prove them right.” Thank you, dear letter writer for proving once again mom was right.

John Plute Kerby, OR

Save the date

Jan. 29
****Lend a Hand at the Lake,** volunteer event Saturday, Jan. 29 at Lake Selmac Trout Pavilion 9 a.m. - noon Register at josephinecountyparks.com. For info call 541- 474-5285 or email parks@josephinecounty.gov

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 Tuesday 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.

**** WeThePeopleUnited of Josephine County** will be hosting meetings again starting Tuesday, Jan. 4 every Tuesday afternoon @ 2 p.m. at Ascension Art & Tea House located at 200 Lister Street in CJ. New members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information email: wethepeopleunitedjoco@protonmail.com.

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