



Her life in the Valley of Riches

by Laura Mancuso, editor

I hope everyone that celebrates Easter had a nice holiday. I had a great time taking photos of the smiling children looking for eggs at Jubilee Park, riding the Lion’s Club train and picking out a special Easter basket. What a surprise waking up to snow on the ground Saturday morning. It was a beautiful sight, but whenever it snows, I can’t help but think about all the unhoused people in our valley that must be very cold. Writing about the unhoused brings me to the topic of the I.V. Shelter and Resource Center coming soon to the Valley. I wanted to wait to write about it when I had more facts to share, but a negative letter to the editor about the topic has prompted me to respond.

Last year, House Bill 5006 awarded \$630,000 in funds to the Illinois Valley for a shelter and resource center. The funding was passed through to the 501(c)3 AllCare Community Foundation, to manage the funds and a steering committee for the new nonprofit, Illinois Valley Living Solutions, was recently formed to write a proposal of intent. As the project manager, I recently purchased commercial county property in the urban growth boundary on the corner of Caves Hwy. and Dogwood. The structure and property combination are a good fit for the Rogue Retreat shelter model that I.V. Living Solutions would like to follow. Rogue Retreat operates shelters in Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass. Although most of the details have yet to be determined, IVLS is committed to following housing and fire codes and improving the property with raised fences, landscaping and remodeling. Our vision includes a well-managed facility with supportive services provided for screened individuals that have been displaced and are trying to get back on their feet during the

current housing crisis. Our steering committee invited neighbors surrounding the property to a town hall meeting via mail invitations and by knocking on doors in the neighborhood. We tried to share our intentions at the meeting but a handful of neighbors would not even listen to the ideas, instead making sarcastic and hostile comments. And now, the complaint from the letter writer is poor communication? The day before the meeting I got a phone call from one of the neighbors threatening to gather an “angry crowd” to bring to the meeting. We had the audience write down comments to be read by the moderator, which is common town hall protocol, especially when anger is threatened. I got the feeling that the neighbors would have preferred yelling at all of us about the concerns for their property values instead of writing them down. I don’t think they disapprove of a homeless shelter; they just would like to have it in someone else’s backyard instead of theirs. But facts are facts - statistics show that a well-managed transitional housing facility decreases crime in a neighborhood. And in my opinion, the

corner of Caves Hwy. and Dogwood could use a little help. Our intentions are to bring a good and caring service to the Valley and we welcome input about the planning phase of the project. Along with AllCare, this project is supported by United Community Action Network (UCAN), Rogue Retreat, Options for Southern Oregon, Department of Human Services, HIV Alliance, Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance, Illinois Valley Family Coalition, Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of the Illinois Valley, City of Cave Junction, and I.V. Community Development Organization. Our next town hall meeting is Thursday, April 28 at 4 p.m. at Illinois Valley High School. My hope is that this time around there will be more open minds instead of angry defiance. If you are interested in learning more about the Rogue Retreat model you can go to rogueretreat.org and as always, I encourage letters to the editor. Enjoy this week’s paper, especially the fun photos of the Easter Egg Hunt.

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



Are you interested in being part of a special group of Cave Junction

residents who will work with city council to review our city charter? A city charter is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of the city government. It is comparable to the Constitution of the United States. It is the most important legal document of any city. Oregon is a “home rule” state which allows chartered cities to set policy and manage its own affairs without the need to obtain authority from a state legislature, except in certain restricted areas by law. All of Oregon’s 241 incorporated cities operate under a home rule charter. Cave Junction adopted its

first charter in 1946 and became incorporated in 1948. In 1950 the U.S. Census counted 283 residents. The city now has a population of 2,149 (2019) The last time our City Charter was updated was in 1981. It is time to review whether this vital city document will take Cave Junction through the next 40 years. The city is looking for five city residents to join city council members in reviewing our charter. In preparation, Rowan Fairfield, our RAREAmeriCorps member, has done a thorough comparison of our current charter to the League of Oregon Cities model charter document and to other small cities in Oregon. We anticipate

that with the pre-work done, the charter committee commitment will be about two meeting. Any charter changes must then go before the registered voters. We need to start this process now to be ready for the November ballot. If you have been a resident within city limits for at least one year, can show a driver’s license documenting that, and are a registered voter- we need your help! Applications are available at city hall. Please do this soon. If you have any questions, please contact me at meadow.martell@cavejunctionoregon.us or call me at 541-287-0044. Businesses and organizations in

Cave Junction and the Illinois Valley are now participating in the Energy Trust of Oregon program, No Cost Lighting Upgrades. This is a great opportunity to upgrade your lighting and save electricity and money on your electric bill. This is a limited time offer, so get on the list by calling Forrest Roth at IVCDO, 541-592-9279. I hope you are enjoying our spring weather. Here is an applicable quote from Mark Twain- “In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.”

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 likes selective cutting I am writing to express my concern and sadness about the clear cutting going on in or valley for the last several years since John Hancock purchased Rough and Ready acreage. My husband and I are not anti-logging, we are anti-clear

cut. My husband worked in forestry for several years and has an educational background in plant ecology. Having lived on our property since 1975 we have seen many lumber company’s management practices on this land- Longview, Champion, Rough and Ready. For the most part they used select cut sustainable methods which left enough trees that recovery was possible and left a diverse and healthy forest. If that was a

commercially viable option then, why not now? Because of greed. It’s cheaper to clear cut than to select cut. Clear cutting is not a jobs creation solution-only 2 or 3 workers with big machines are needed to knock down a forest. John Hancock folks don’t live here, don’t have to think about the impact on our community-the visual aesthetics of the valley, the noise or poisons being used in our watershed. At least one of the chemicals being used for spraying is one of the main

ingredients in Agent Orange- 2,4,D. This information can be found on the NOAP completed through Oregon Department of Forestry. Hancock also doesn’t have to think about the effect clear cuts will have on rising temperatures- it’s fact that it’s about 10 degrees cooler or more in a forest during heat waves-or that planting an even-stand single species “tree farm” is the worst possible scenario for future wildfires. A partial cut allows water to remain in the duff and soil which in turn

protects the aquifer-streams and springs. Clear cuts allow water to just run off and fills streams with sediment destroying spawning beds for fish. We need to continue the conversation about how forests are managed in our valley and how to affect some policy changes. Elden and Barbara Parchim, Cave Junction

SEE LETTERS ON A-6

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
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Save the date

April 24

The Rogue Valley Rose Society will meet April 24 at 2 p.m.at Our Lady of the River Church, 3625 N. River Rd in Rogue River.

The program is “Asian Influences in Modern Floral Arrangements by Gena Goddard. She is a Master Flower Show Judge for the National Garden Club. She also is a member of the Ashland Garden Club and belongs to the Siskiyou Judges Council. She has won many Best of Show Awards in the Statewide Floral Show competitions.She shares her knowledge by teaching Garden Clubs and Community classes in flower design. She has served on judging panels for National Garden Club Symposiums.

Tip of the month on “Hidentification of Rose Leaf Fungas, Black Spot & others” will be given by Mike Zerwer, an ARS Consulting Rosarian.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information call Trisha Kohut, Program Chair,

541-450-1029 or CarolAnne Durante, President 541-471-7091

ALSO-We are having our Annual PARKING LOT & PLANT SALE Saturday, April 23 at Dutch Brothers Headquarters, Corner of G & 4th St. from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. We sell roses, plants, succulents, household items, toys & much more!!

May 6

Pacific Northwest Prairies and Climate Change, May 6, 6:30-7:30 PM, Siskiyou Field Institute, Selma, OR.

“Join us for a free public seminar to hear from ecologist Paul Reed about the results of the recent study ‘Heating of Prairie Systems,’ and ongoing efforts to facilitate native prairie restoration in an era of climate change.

Prairies in the western Pacific Northwest, such as those found in the Rogue and Illinois Valley regions, are critically endangered ecosystems. A variety of factors, including the disruption of historical fire regimes,

land use change, and invasive species, have all contributed substantially to their decline. Now, climate change threatens to add to these existing threats. As conditions become hotter and drier, many plant species native to these ecosystems are at risk of decline. To understand how climate change will affect Pacific Northwest prairies, researchers from the University of Oregon conducted a multi-year experiment at three sites across western Oregon and Washington, including at the Siskiyou Field Institute.” Event info: <https://fb.me/e/334mMBtPZ>

June 18

Recycled Raft Race at Hathkapasuta River Celebration June 18 at Illinois River Forks State Park. Categories include: Fastest, Most Creative, Funniest and more! This event is about ingenuity, creativity and FUN! Free and open to the public Call Jill Talise at 541-415-6699 for more information Hosted by the Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network.

Ongoing

Wednesdays

GAME ON! Grab a friend, drop in, and Game On at your local public library. Try your hand at a variety of games, including chess, Pictionary, Uno, cards, and BUILDZI, the fast-paced block-stacking game!

Every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 pm.209 W Palmer St, Cave Junction. For more information call 541-592-4770.

****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 by 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.

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