

From the mayor’s desk:

by Meadow Martell



I spent last weekend in northern California at a yearly “family” reunion. This was not a biological family, but rather a

family of friends, fondly named the “logical family.” Like many families it has been three years since we gathered. It was a wonderful time to have great conversations and meet new people. I do hope that you can create opportunities to reconnect with important people in your lives. It takes some effort to stay in touch with those you love. Are you concerned about how our downtown looks and presents to travelers? There are numerous opportunities to do something about it instead of just complaining. Our downtown needs your help, and you can determine how much you can give. Main Steet Cave Junction is

looking for another board member who has time for a meeting once a month and the willingness to follow through and get things done. MSCJ also has some funding and there are some exciting opportunities that could use your help. These projects include the Oak-to-Art Transformation project, new banners for downtown light poles, decorating electrical boxes, and planning a fall Harvest Festival. Please contact me or anyone else on the board if you have any time or questions. This week I am leaving for the Oregon Mayors Association Summer Conference for four days

in Newport. This is not just a pleasure excursion. There is a full agenda that includes opportunities to meet other mayors and exchange ideas, discuss issues that affect our cities, sessions on upcoming legislation in Oregon that affects cities, the digital world and social media savvy, and successful mayor relationships. I take my duties as mayor seriously and I want to learn as much possible from other mayors. In addition to the conference, I am on the Oregon Mayors Association Board of Directors, and we have a board meeting during the conference. I also serve on the OMA

Homelessness Taskforce. It has been interesting and enlightening to discuss the issues other cities are experiencing with houselessness and livability challenges. It doesn’t seem to matter the size of the city. Everyone is experiencing and frustrated with the challenges of housing and homelessness. With a full calendar of events all the way through Sunday and then travel home on Monday, I will not have time to write my letter for next week. Instead, I plan to come back with more ideas, information, and enthusiasm that I can integrate into my term.

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

(Editor’s Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

Dear Editor,
This may be an unpopular position. But these are unpopular times. I want to add my name in support of secure funding for law

enforcement in Josephine County. The associated patchwork of band aid funding over the years has failed the community and invited a criminal element to our roadways. You can no longer park your vehicle by a trailhead or swim hole without the fear of it being vandalized or having your catalytic converter stolen. I no longer feel that Josephine County is a safe place to live. That’s a big problem for me or anyone

else who doesn’t want to live in an unsafe place. I am a senior citizen who is on a fixed income. I really feel that a broke income better describes my situation, since I usually seem to be broke. And as unappetizing as taxes sound, I believe that we cannot afford to continue on with insufficient law enforcement in Josephine County. The idea to impose a local sales tax is just another band aid

fix that would be a burden to local businesses. It would not provide enough funding for a stable expanded law enforcement presence. Secure funding would have to be provided by raising property taxes. Josephine County property owners have the most to gain from the expanded law enforcement presence, so property owners need to carry the burden. Do we want to let the criminals continue to dominate our roadways

or do we fight back with a plan to provide secure funding for our dedicated law enforcement officers? This is a no brainer if you value security. If we don’t step up to improve this situation, it most certainly will get worse.

Greg Horton Holland

Oregon’s wildfire risk map emerges as new climate flashpoint

Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A new map in Oregon that rated the wildfire risk of every tax lot in the state — labeling nearly 80,000 structures as high-risk — generated so much pushback from angry homeowners that officials abruptly retracted it, saying they had not done enough local outreach before publicizing the ambitious project. The rapid reversal, announced late Thursday, capped weeks of mounting frustration in mostly rural areas as the map emerged

as a new flashpoint for conservatives who call it government overreach and “climate change evangelism.” Oregon State Forester Cal Mukumoto said in a statement his agency got specific feedback from 2,000 residents about problems with the risk designations that were assigned by the Oregon Explorer project and said climate scientists would refine the map and reissue a new version at a later date. The map was part of a \$220 million bill passed last year to prepare Oregon for worsening, climate change-fueled wildfires. “While we met the bill’s initial deadline for

delivering on the map, there wasn’t enough time to allow for the type of local outreach and engagement that people wanted, needed and deserved,” wrote Mukumoto, who reiterated that Oregon is at a critical juncture with wildfires and needs to take bold action. “We know how important it is to get this right.” Fierce opposition bubbled up at community meetings prior to the state’s step back. Residents and some local officials worried it would lead to insurance rate increases or coverage loss, while others bridled at new mandates for defensible space and rules for future

construction that flow from the map’s designations. One information session in the conservative southwest corner of the state was canceled after someone threatened violence. “I’m sitting in a place here right now where I’m overlooking several hundred acres that are irrigated, they’re green year-round and yet they’re in ‘high’ or ‘extreme’ risk category. They’re never going to burn,” said Brandon Larsen, who spoke during a session that was moved online in Medford. “This is more about climate change evangelism than it is about actually protecting people from the

risks that are out there.” The Oregon Department of Forestry, which created the risk map with experts from Oregon State University, said the fire policies triggered by the initial map are intended to prevent more catastrophic wildfires — not make life more difficult for homeowners. “Many of the comments that we’ve received and much of the concern is around, ‘I’ve already done what I can around my home so I should be at a lower risk.’ This isn’t a risk assessment of that defensible space,” Derek Gasperini, agency spokesman, said before the map was retracted.

“The map is the risk of wildfire occurrence and there are certain things you just can’t impact. You can’t affect the weather, you can’t change the fact that you live in a hot and dry climate.” With climate change, wildfire risk maps like Oregon’s are likely to become increasingly common for homeowners, and even those maps will need to be updated frequently to keep up with the changing dynamics of climate change, said Noah Diffenbaugh, a climate scientist at Stanford University.

SEE MAP ON A-9

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM

541-592-4110

Save the date

Aug. 14
Illinois Valley Historic Laurel Cemetery
Next board meeting will be Sunday, Aug. 14, 1 p.m. in the chapel.

Aug. 15
Monday Aug. 15 Guest Speaker Skip Tyler 10:30 at Fountain of Life, 451 S Junction Ave. C. J.

Aug. 22-26
Join us for Avalanche Ranch VBS! August 22-26 from 9:00-12:00. Registration 8:30-9:00 FREE Community Bible Church 113 S. Caves Ave. 541-592-3896 8.24p

Oct. 14
Mark your calendar now! The CJ Farmers’ Market and Southern Oregon Guild presents the 7th Annual Upcycle Art and Furniture Contest with Trash Fashion show! First place \$500 plus more cash prizes

for all ages! Reuse and repurpose found objects to make a piece of art, sturdy piece of furniture or clothing item! Bring your finished piece to display at the Cave Junction Farmers’ Market Friday, Oct. 14 at 3:30 p.m.. Judging and awards will be given at 5 p.m. Questions? Contact cjfarmersmarketinfo@gmail.com

Tuesdays
****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

**** WeThePeopleUnited of Josephine County** are hosting meetings at Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction, every 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 6-8pm. Our next meeting is August 9th @ 6pm. We are currently running a GMRS Radio net on Monday’s @ 7pm and starting a Ham Radio Group for the Illinois Valley. New members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information please email: wethepeopleunitedjoco@protonmail.com

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 p.m.209 W Palmer St, Cave Junction. For more information call 541-592-4770.

Thursdays
****Starting July 7 and running every Thursday through August 25,** at Jubilee Park Music is on from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.. The next concerts are 7/14: Circle of Stone (Traditional, Original, & Contemporary Celtic music); & 7/21: Dale & Sharon Hopper- Country Western/Americana

Saturdays
****Take your bottles and cans to IVCaDo’s Cans for Kids** behind the Chevron Station 10 - 2.

Volunteer Opportunities
****Adopt-A-Senior Volunteers**

wanted to assist senior and disabled residents in their home with light duty activities and to drive residents to doctor or grocery store. Gift cards are provided for volunteers. Background check and references required call 541-592-9781 or email iwellnessresources@gmail.com.

**** HIV Alliance** offers services in Cave Junction every Tuesday from noon – 3 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church (across from Shop Smart). 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

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 - \$40

One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$41

One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$48.00

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@itheivnews.com

DEADLINES:

News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcement and Letters

4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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.

AP

AP EXCHANGE