



Her life in the Valley of Riches

by Laura Mancuso, editor

Just wanted to remind our readers that the Illinois Valley News provides FREE content for our community. Many newspapers in the

region charge for obituaries by the column inch, but we do it for free without a word limit. The only charge is \$10 if you would like to

publish a photograph with it. Other free content/text includes announcements such as anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, weddings, births, celebrations, sporting events and memorials. And of course, if you want to “go big” with a display ad and color graphics, our staff can help you plan this for a reasonable price. In the age of social media, it seems many forget that not everybody is on Facebook or Instagram. I can tell you that my younger sister, Cindy Potter, who lives in South Dakota, is an example of this.

She is more likely to see a graduation announcement published in the newspaper that she reads weekly than on social media. Other freebies are included on the classified page. If you find a wallet or some keys and want to return them to their rightful owners, “Lost and Found” is free. We also do “Personal” ads for free. If you are looking for a special someone to contact you in the Valley, contact your local paper. Now that we have a website, the Classifieds are uploaded and able to be viewed

by anyone looking at the theivnews.com page. So, if you have a business to advertise, it would be a great investment to purchase an ad for this page. The “Save the Date” section is located right here on the bottom of A-2. If you are providing a free event or community service, you can have it added to this section free of charge. And let’s not forget the Tales of the Rural Patrol. While getting your name listed is free, in the long run you might want to avoid that. How do you contact the

Illinois Valley News? You can call at 541-592-2541 and please leave a voicemail if we are not available to answer. You can also email dan or laura@theivnews.com. And last, but not least, come in for a visit Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., but I recommend you call first, just in case we are out on a newspaper assignment. Dan and I are determined to keep your local paper thriving and I hope you will continue to support us. Thanks for picking up this week’s paper. Enjoy!

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.)

SB762

I feel an urgent need to summarize some key points which I feel must be highlighted in our conversations about establishing a more accurate and acceptable Wildfire Risk Map under SB 762. We know that ODF is aware of and working on addressing the unacceptable degree of inconsistencies stemming from computer modeling and lack of ground-truthing. However, the conversation needs to double down on identifying other important flaws so that we aren’t served up a “revised” map with the same problems as the first. We only have a limited amount of time before ODF moves forward. Together we can work to identify what needs to be addressed. To my eye, this will include redrawing WUI lines and putting more emphasis on road accessibility, availability of local fire responders, and local wind

patterns, as I will describe in this letter. I believe these items must be adequately addressed by rule makers, or else new legislation will be needed to restore or update the law. Under the proposed map model, we have seen that entire neighborhoods and watersheds with excellent road access and good fire response ISO ratings could be mislabeled as extreme risk. This is in stark contrast to our actual observations and experience during past fire seasons. Highest risk has historically been observed along the interface between public/private forestlands and residential areas, especially in the more remote reaches. In order to arrive at a more accurate determination of high risk areas, local access and fire response must be considered. I would propose that there should be no “extreme” ratings within easily-accessible populated areas, except along recognized wind corridors to address the rare but troubling threat of runaway urban fires such as the Almeda Fire. Why not look at the number of fire incidents in each neighborhood which hop to adjacent properties before being extinguished? That would provide some true evidence-based data.

Broadsread assignment of high and extreme risk across entire local populations acts to obscure the ability to discern where the elevated risk actually exists. If every property is labeled extreme risk, then how do we know which properties are at a greater risk? Under the SB 762 model, we have already seen the potential for pushing most homeowners into higher categories than warranted by actual conditions and insurance claims indicate. To make matters worse, the appeals process only provides for moving one step down the scale even if the property in question was previously considered to be a far lower rating. In addition to more accurate mapping of risk, the re-drawing of the WUI outline is critically important. It must be revised so that it serves its intended purpose of delineating the “edge” or overlap where yearly fires in unpopulated public forestland can occasionally spill over to rural residential properties. This should be a single line following the edge of forestlands, leaving any expansive developed areas outside its reaches- only small residential inlets would need to be included. Illogical WUI islands within the larger residential areas should be removed from the

risk map, considering that local fire responders have complete access to these areas from all sides through developed areas. Furthermore, to accomplish the purpose of distinguishing a zone of elevated risk, the WUI width must be decreased from 1.5 miles to a figure more representative of typical spread of fire across residential properties. In many cases, nearby adjacent roadways could be used as an appropriate border since they are commonly utilized as fire lines. Any excess in the width of the WUI will obscure the actual areas of higher risk and unfairly penalize landowners, so the line must be drawn with care. The Obenchain Fire of 2020 represents the most severe recent wildfire in our two local counties, with 33 homes lost. A WUI line drawn per my suggestions would encompass the entire footprint of this and other severe wildfires in our area. Accordingly, the definition of WUI criteria in 629-044-1011 must be completely revised so that it can be mapped in a logical way. Any part of its criteria which duplicates the calculation of the fire risk ratings is a redundancy which needs to be removed so that the two separate components of the model (WUI and

risk ratings) can function as separate layers. Reduction of the WUI criteria to reflect a single line demarking the transition to unpopulated wildlands is the best way to make the process understandable and fair to landowners, and put to rest much of the need for the expensive appeals process. I would ask everyone to merely consult their own common sense- neighborhoods with active fire departments within easy reach should not be given a blanket extreme risk category. I would go a step further in suggesting that extreme risk does not exist in most residential settings with good fire response, and this category should be used sparingly. Fires within most populated areas are extinguished promptly due to simple visibility- This is why the largest fires start in remote areas- these fire starts are not detected until they are large or cannot be controlled promptly due to accessibility. In Josephine and Jackson Counties, our wildland fire response is outstanding, and despite decades of yearly fire events our structural losses adjacent to wildfires continue to be low. Amy More Cave Junction

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541-592-4110

Save the date

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.

Aug. 23
** WeThePeopleUnited of Josephine County will be having a follow-up public meeting on ODF SB762 and United Nation’s Agenda 2030 at Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction, from 6-8pm. We are currently running a GMRS Radio net on Mondays @ 7pm and starting a Ham Radio Group for the Valley. New members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information please email: wethepeopleunitedjoco@protonmail.com

Sept. 3 -5
I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival: Check out the vendor and parade applications in this week’s paper.

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 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

Thursdays
**Concerts in the Park
Thursdays through Aug. 25, at Jubilee Park Music is on from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.. The next concerts are Aug.18 6 p.m. to be announced and 7 p.m. is Rick Stanton, rockabilly/ rock n’ roll and Aug. 25 will be Takilma rock ‘n roll/blues

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 ivwellnessresources@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.

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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.

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