

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



I recently attended the 2022 Oregon Mayors Association Conference in Newport. The cooler weather was appreciated, and it was energizing being with over 100

mayors from around the state. Some of the sessions I attended included: social media networking, barriers to serving as a local government leader, financing city programs and services, and elements of successful mayor relationships. There was an awards ceremony for the student winners of the statewide “If I were a Mayor...” contest. Depending on the age group there was a poster, a written piece, or a digital media submission. It was moving to meet the winners and see their entries. I hope that next year we can organize entries from Cave Junction.

Do you know about Faster Internet Oregon? This is a coalition of nonprofit and governmental

agencies working to create dynamic broadband maps that more accurately reflect the status of broadband in Oregon. They have a statewide speed test campaign to encourage Oregonians to measure their internet speeds at home or report if they do not have an internet connection due to availability or affordability. The goal is to help identify gaps in high-speed internet service and provide real data to ensure that future funding decisions on broadband infrastructure are based on accurate assessments of gaps in connectivity.

Why is this important? A lot of Federal money is available to create broadband infrastructure for

historically un-served and under-served communities, Accurate data will result in more equitable decisions to ensure that broadband funds are distributed to communities that need it most. The Faster Internet Oregon website has a quick and easy-to-use speed test and asks a few simple location questions for mapping accuracy.

Data from the project will help decision makers Identify Oregon homes that lack high-speed internet and households that do not have an internet connection and why, and provide cost estimates and assess competitive viability for areas with identified gaps.

Privacy is of the utmost

importance to this campaign. No personally identifiable information is stored beyond the address that residents provide, and the information will not be available for public viewing or sold.

You can help by taking the speed test and spreading the word. The more people in our communities who take the speed test will ensure that the coalition and decision makers are able to develop accurate maps of the state to assess broadband gaps. I have talked to other communities in Oregon who are using this information to negotiate better broad band services in their area.

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.)

Forest Fires and National Defense Policy 2022

There seems to be a new twist to the government’s response to the ever growing threat of wildfires. More and more we see an emerging assertion that the citizens should bear the primary responsibility for protecting their homes. The phrase Residential-Forest Inter-Phase is trotted out as if rural folks should feel guilty about where they choose to live. This is wrong. The government’s job is National Defense and should protect everyone equally.

This is not to diminish the benefits of building defensible space and other common sense fire wise protections. However, let’s look at

the events of September 9, 2020 as devil winds raced down on Oregon and Northern California pushing wildfires ahead at phenomenal speed. On that horrible day over 2400 homes were destroyed by the Alameda Fire in suburban residential zones in Phoenix and Talent Oregon and fires butted up against the urban areas around Medford. At the same time, during the huge and equally intense Slater Fire, rural residential communities in southern and western Josephine County didn’t lose a single house. Of course many climatic conditions made the two fires not comparable in many ways, but the great loss of homes over in Jackson County occurred because these closely packed subdivisions and mobile home parks caused one structure to set the next alight without any forest responsible for the rapid spread. In the rural residential areas, although homes were built near woodlands, heroic efforts on the part of local fire crews, home owners and neighbors,

Greyback contractors and structural fire crews (in big red engines) who came in from Minneapolis MN, Fargo ND, Salt Lake and Portland Airport had enough time, sweat and resources to save every house.

The danger of a fire storm igniting whole subdivisions, far from forests, has shown to be far more devastating than the Rural Residential Inter-Phase. Look no further than Santa Rosa and Napa California or the suburbs around Boulder, Colorado, out on the edge of the prairie, last December(!).

We must relieve the Forest Service of fire fighting. They are unable and unwilling to take on the responsibility of Initial Attack and instead fall back on “learned helplessness”. That is to say they find reasons why initial attack is not possible (too dangerous, not enough resources, too remote, etc.) and that fires are beneficial (too many fires were suppressed, fire is a natural process, climate change is at fault, people should just get out of the

way, etc.). Meanwhile we are losing a million acres of forest and half a dozen communities every year. This is unacceptable and unsustainable.

We need a National Wildfire Defense Force. This should be regarded as a branch of the military, with military training, chain of command, rewarding pay and benefits. This force should be Nationwide and treat wildfire, of any kind, anywhere, as an invading enemy that must be stopped as soon as it breaks out. Use should be made of satellite infrared reconnaissance, hundreds of aircraft, ready to scramble at a moment’s notice. Military quality, trucks, dozers and troop carriers need to be stationed throughout the country with thousands of trained fire fighting troops standing by in readiness. Isn’t this what the military does? Isn’t this what we expect for National Defense?

For comparison, the Defense budget is \$773 billion now including a “Space Force” (whatever that

is) of \$24.5 billion. Congress just appropriated \$19 billion for immediate military support to Ukraine and the Coast Guard (which is funded by Homeland Security) gets \$13.1 billion. Out of the Forest Service budget of \$5.7 billion (funded by the Agriculture Dept.), Fire Fighting gets \$3.14 billion; or less than one half of one percent of what we spend on National defense. In Forest Service employment, fire fighters start with minimum wage and, as we went into fire season, staffing was 20% below minimum levels. Flipping burgers at McDonalds pays better and is a whole lot safer.

Yes, climate change has presented a whole new level of wild fire dangers. We must meet it with and even stronger defense. Let us not allow the “learned helplessness” of the Forest Service propaganda influence our policies any longer.

Robert Hirning
Takilma

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 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.

Sept. 2
“The Stories of the Stars”
Friday, Sept. 2, 8:30-9:30 p.m.
Siskiyou Field Institute, 1241 Illinois River Rd. Selma, OR
All ages are invited to share the stories of the stars with Ranger Saddle and Ranger CJ. Come learn about the tales behind the constellations and zodiac signs, and explore their beauty in dark skies. This program is FREE and family-friendly! Presented in partnership

by the Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve, and the Siskiyou Field Institute.
Please Bring: Lawn Chair or Blanket to lay on, Warm Clothes, Water, Curiosity, & Flashlight
Event Information: <https://fb.me/e/1XjD6qJax>

Sept. 3 -5
I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival at Jubilee Park:
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 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

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.

Liz Murray

From homeless to Harvard.

AMBITION

Pass It On.

VALUES.COM THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE

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@theivnews.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