

# Recreation Roundup: by John Miles, Parks & Rec Commission chair

This has been an incredibly busy month. I had shoulder surgery and have been in a sling for the past six weeks, which has really made me appreciate the good health I have enjoyed for most of my 67 years. I should get it off this week! Take care of yourselves by exercising regularly at one of our great community parks. I'm recovering well, and the physical therapists are enjoying

pushing me past the point of pain, but that's what it takes to recover. I'm looking forward to being able to cut my own food when I eat, and being able to actually write, and not look like a toddler who got into the crayons.

As far as parks go, there is encouraging news. The cleanup at Old Stage Park went well. Between city crews and enthusiastic volunteers, a 20-yard dumpster that

was donated by SOS was completely filled, and the park looks great. Many thanks to Roger Brandt for making this happen. The city crew was also active and cut a fire break between the park and the homes just above it. Unfortunately, we did not get the planning grant for Old Stage Park, but since all the paperwork is done, we are still looking for other grantors for funding. There is great news

for the spray pad at Jubilee Park. Thanks to lots of behind-the-scenes efforts by city staff, the engineer has developed a design that fits with the concept the parks commission envisioned as well as being within budget. The engineer is preparing construction documents, and as soon as they are done, contractors will be invited to submit bids. We are expecting to begin construction in

July or early August and have the dedication in conjunction with Labor Day festivities in the park. Stay tuned for the announcement of the groundbreaking ceremony.

The Parks Commission is working on a long-term development plan for Jubilee Park. We have a large overhead picture of the park, and scale model layouts for various park amenities. We will be at various park

events and invite you to come and move the models around to help us figure out an arrangement where everything fits and works as a whole for Cave Junction.

As always, we invite your input. Our next meeting will be July 6, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. You can always reach us at our email, [cjparkcommission@cavejunctionoregon.us](mailto:cjparkcommission@cavejunctionoregon.us).



## Life in the Valley of Riches

by Dan Mancuso, publisher

A few weeks back I spoke out about religion in 4-H. Since that time, I have spoken to 4-H Outreach Program Coordinator Lisa Parlette and learned why it was an issue. While I don't like it, I understand why they have the policy.

Children are matched with 4-H clubs based on their interest and physical location. For example, there is only one rabbit club. If a child who is Muslim or Jewish wanted to show rabbits, they likely would not be comfortable wearing a shirt with a cross. Christian members would likely not be happy to wear a shirt with a star of David.

Parlette says that for youths that want to share their experience with their God, there are other ways. "Cross necklaces, hair pins or

even embroidering on their pants. Other youth put up posters in their stalls that contain religious symbols and quotes." When 4-H club shirts are not required, participants may wear personal attire with religious symbols.

Parlette added that she understands the Faithful Farmers members raised the money for the shirts and had offered to cover the cost of new shirts for the club.

I reached out to Faithful Farmers for comment but have not heard from them.

JOE's Place is another story. Participants of JOE's Place had participated the prior year as members in an existing club, but moved to start their own youth livestock education club that was not an official 4-H club.

"4-H never received an application to form a club called JOE's Place. We did receive the question if JOE's place could participate in 4-H shows and then be eligible for the Josephine County auction. They were told, 'No, that 4-H shows were open to 4-H clubs

and members,'" said Parlette.

Hearing Parlette's side of the story one can understand that the issue was not Jesus at all.

But what is really shocking is that the Josephine County Commissioners voted to cut the tax funding that was from a levy of roughly \$0.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. That would've resulted in an estimated \$414,000 in tax revenue for the service district for the upcoming fiscal year.

The commissioners also voted to terminate a service agreement between the county and OSU Extension Services.

The decisions halt local tax funding toward 4-H, the Master Gardener program and the many other services provided by the extension service programming.

I understand the commissioners are trying to cut costs to put toward law enforcement, but this is petty and I am looking into the legality of the move.

Thank you for picking up this week's paper. Enjoy! ~djm

## Obituaries

**Laurence J. Umphrey, 83**, of Cave Junction, died June 14, 2023, at his home. Arrangements with Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

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# Save the date

**June 24**  
**\*\*Hathkapasuta**  
 Illinois River Celebration. Parade of Puppets, all ages invited to join. **11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Illinois River State Park** Free event 1/4 mile south of Cave Junction. Playful arts and nature experiences for the whole family, hands-on history and nature exhibits, fun games and crafts, Live music by Frankie Hernandez Band, Sunrise and the Starseed Experience. Food vendors included, free craft booth by IRVAC, Wildlife Images bus. Recycled raft race at 3:30 p.m. This is an alcohol and drug-free event. Brought to you by CEEN. For more information call Tim 541-291-8860.

**\*\*Recycled Raft Race**  
 - Homemade Rafts race down the Illinois River 125 yards during Hathkapasuta River Celebration at Illinois River State Park. 2 Divisions Adults - 16 & over Youth - 10-15. Categories: most unique, funniest, fastest etc. for both divisions. This event is about ingenuity, creativity and most of all FUN!! RULES: Rafts must be hand-made. Floats can be small inner tubes, water jugs, capped PVC pipes, barrels etc. No larger inner tubes or Tahiti-style rafts. Paddles and oars only. 1 or 2 riders allowed; torso must be above water & life jackets must be worn. Sign up and line up at 3:30 p.m. to the left

of the pavilion. Free & open to the public Call Jill Talise at 541-415-6699 Hathkapasuta is a sponsor-funded event hosted by the Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network (CEEN)

**June 28**  
**\*\*Cave Junction Seventh-day Adventist church will be presenting Pets Unleashed" Vacation Bible School** June 28 - 30, at Madrone Adventist Elementary School. Pets Unleashed VBS will show kids Jesus' loving care through relatable, pet-inspired adventure! There will be Projects-with-a-purpose, team-building games, and songs, along with a mid-morning snack. The fun will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 12 p.m. Parents, Grandparents, and friends are invited to joins us at the school for a Celebration of what the children have accomplished on Saturday, July 1st from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., followed by a potluck luncheon.

For more information please contact Shellie McDowell at 541-287-0009 or Chris Harwood at 408-813-7053. VBS is open for children ages 3 y/o through middle school and is free to all participants. To register your child for this Faith-filled, Fun adventure, send an email to [cjsdavbs@gmail.com](mailto:cjsdavbs@gmail.com).

**June 30, July 1 and 2**  
**\*\*IVHS Alumni Weekend:** No Newsletter this year. Please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/IVHSAumni>. There will be at least 4 classes having reunions: 1973, 1978, 2003 and 2008. This year the Illinois Valley Country Club will be hosting a Golf Tournament over Reunion Weekend. For more information please contact: Illinois Valley Country Club 541-592-3151.

**July 1**  
**\*\*Cave Junction SOAP BOX DERBY. More details to come!**

**July 11**  
**\*\*Tuesday, July 11, Illinois Valley Amateur Radio Club (IVARC) will be having our monthly meeting @ 6pm at Wild River Pizza in CJ. Come to our meeting to learn about IVARC and get free two-way radio training and assistance. Pre-programmed radios with 86 local fire, police, and other frequencies are available or get free updates on your existing Baofeng radio programming. Every Monday at 7pm we have a weekly net check-in starting on IVARC'S GMRS repeater, followed by Simplex FRS 3 and MURS 3, allowing unlicensed operators an opportunity to participate. New members are welcome and encouraged to join our net and attend our meetings. For**

more information, please visit our website Illinois Valley Amateur Radio Club (IVARC.org) or email: [IVARC.org@proton.me](mailto:IVARC.org@proton.me)

**TUESDAY S**  
**\*\*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](mailto: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

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**\*\*Josephine County Weekly Business session.**  
 First Wednesday of the month is at 6 p.m. All others 9 a.m. in the Ann Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass.

**\*\*PUBLIC HEALTH WEDNESDAYS: Pop Up Parks Outreach Program**  
 -Weather permitting, COVID-19 vaccinations, STD prevention & HIV testing, JoCo Food Bank, bottled water, wound care supplies

and more. I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., 12 - 1 p.m. & Jubilee Park 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. and lunch served by I.V. Living Solutions. Sponsored by JoCo Public Health and HIV Alliance. Call or text Laura Mancuso with I.V. Wellness Resources for info at 541-592-9781 or email [ivwellnessresources@gmail.com](mailto:ivwellnessresources@gmail.com).

**SATURDAYS**  
**\*\*Take your bottles and cans to IVCanDo's Cans for Kids** behind the Chevron Station 10 - 2.

**\*\*VOLUNTEERS WANTED**  
**Josephine County Sheriff's Office** is seeking volunteers for the following: Staffing the Merlin and Cave Junction Substations; Patrol including providing vacation home checks, checking parks & boat ramps, locating and tagging abandoned vehicles. And providing court safety.

**ONGOING**  
**\*\*Drop-in Storytime** at Josephine County Library in Cave Junction, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., with stories read aloud by Deborah every half hour and a themed craft available all day. For families on a tight time schedule, craft kits are available to take home!

**\*\*Kerby Food Pantry change:** The Pop up pantry in Selma has moved. the

same time at 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., but will be in Kerby in the parking lot where the Farmers' Market happens. 21400 Redwood Highway, Kerby. Questions call 541-479-5556.

**\*\*Adopt-A-Senior**  
**\*\*Volunteers** wanted to assist senior and disabled residents in their home with light duty activities and /or socialization 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](mailto: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.

**\*\*Tobacco Cessation Workshop** by AllCare HealthTobacco Cessation Workshop - Open to all community members! ix, 1 hour Sessions September 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27 12 to 1 p.m. at Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 East River St, Cave Junction. Call Julie, 541-471-4106, ext 8276

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