

# 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 The letter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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)**

## Finding Nirvana

When I first moved here over a decade ago I stopped at the DMV to get an OR drivers license. There was a note on the door that she was out giving a drivers test and would return soon. I thought I had found nirvana. I then went to the Post Office where I had the same feeling. No seemingly endless lines just to arrive at a window of a sour faced bureaucrat giving you the feeling they are doing you a favor like in big cities. And so when I read Cathy Bossie's reply to my letter it should have been no surprise. I realized Cave Junction must be an island of excellence in a sea of mediocrity in several areas. Had I read more letters from Evergreen Elementary teachers I would have shared my praise among them for their attitude of putting children first. I would like to make a comment on Allison Ballard's harangue toward the management of Rough and Ready Lumber. (2/9/11) I suspect Ballard, like Barack Obama, has never taken any

business or economic studies, metapayroll, obeyed the myriad of regulations or mandates from county, state and federal agencies, and run a large business. Until we can educate those anti business types and eliminate unnecessary rules and regulations, our robust capitalistic economy will not kick into full steam and hire the millions out of work.

**Gregory D Anderson  
Cave Junction**

## Land Appropriation of Wilderness Area

Regarding the appropriation of all the land in Southern Oregon and Northern California to claim it as Wilderness Area. Instead of claiming it as Wilderness area and making it all but inaccessible to many people. Only those who are capable of hiking through the great forests and mountains would have access to it. Why can't there be a central road made through the area and off-shoot spur roads made with campgrounds at their ends. This would allow all Americans to utilize the land and enjoy nature. By doing this, it would provide many jobs for our young people making the roads and campgrounds; and in addition allow access to everyone. Jobs will provide taxes to the government and income to our young men and women. I see no reason to just mark off all this land and basically say only the fittest may use it. After all, isn't our land for the use of all peoples, not the select few? There could even be wheelchair access in campgrounds, etc.

**Jeanne Ervin  
Selma**

## Stomping on Disabled People

A longtime Illinois Valley resident and disabled person was stomped today by the Josephine County, Oregon Planning Commission because he lives in an RV, like thousands of other people, here in Josephine County! Robert Peirce, fully disabled, and living on a fixed income which is only \$674.00 a month lives in an RV on a rented piece of property in Cave Junction. His check is not large enough to afford to rent a house and pay all the incidentals that go along with it so he managed to get a motorhome and found a piece of property with a well, and septic system, that previously held a mobile home, to put it on for only \$200.00 a month. This worked well, leaving the rest of his check for the incidentals and other expenses until this week! After almost a year of living on this property, the Josephine County Planning Commission has seen fit to contact the property owner and tell them that it is against the law to live in an RV unless it is in an RV Park. If Mr. Peirce has not vacated the property in 60 days, the county is going to take the owner to court. Mr. Peirce is fully disabled, and his check is not large enough to save any money to move, much less rent a house. If he is forced not to live in his motorhome he will probably lose everything he owns and end up sleeping under a bridge or something. He also is on several medications and needs this stable place to live. If you drive around Josephine county you can spot many places where people are living in RV's in plain sight with no problems from

the planning commission, places where its obvious the people have money. Yet in this instance, where it's very obvious that Mr. Peirce doesn't have much money, the planning commission is all over him! Is it because the planning commission knows the people with money will fight them, so they don't mess with them? Or is it because they know that Mr. Peirce does not, and can't fight them? The Planning Commission has a permit process in place so that a person living in a house or mobile home that needs a live-in care giver, can have a caregiver live on the property in an RV legally for the duration of the disability. Yet a person who is disabled themselves, is not allowed this permit process to live in an RV. Mr. Peirce does not require a care giver. He is essentially his own care giver. I just wonder how the Josephine County Planning Commission balances the financial aspect of giving Mr. Peirce one of those permits which the county gets \$325.00 for against the cost they incur by causing him to lose everything, become homeless, live on the streets and possibly become hospitalized because he no longer has a stable place to live and ration his medications. Is this any way to treat a long time valley resident, or anyone for that matter? When Mr. Peirce made the choice to move into the motorhome, it was not his only choice! He could have gone on HUD, went to the county for emergency rent help, became homeless and cost the county money, maybe even persued help from other county agencies which could have cost the county alot of money in the long run. But Mr. Peirce didn't do that. He

buckled down, found a way to get this motorhome, and paid for a place to put it, not costing the county a penny. Now to repay him, they are stomping him in the dirt. Who deserves this kind of treatment?  
**Robert Peirce  
Cave Junction, Or.**  
**Playground Needed**  
Illinois Valley is in need of safe, up-to-date playground equipment at Jubilee Park. The current playground - outdated equipment in a remote location in the back of the park - makes it unsafe for small children. There are a number of area organizations and groups who are working together to fill this need with an awesome new playground. This is a big project and many businesses, organizations and individuals from the community are giving their time, materials and donations in a show of support for the project. We would like to express our gratitude for: Cave Junction's City Council which has provided an area right up front for the new playground; Mark Camp, who is donating his time for site preparation. For site surface for the playground Copeland is donating gravel and Rough & Ready Lumber Co. is donating wood chips. We would like to thank Kurt Krauss who has given very generous support to the Jubilee Park playground project. With the support of Kurt and the Krauss family, this dream is coming possible. It is a big project and we need people in the community to show their support. There are many ways you can help, look for fundraisers that are happening around the valley. On Saturday, Feb. 12 the

"Have a Heart for Jubilee Park" brunch fundraiser was held. Thanks to everyone who made the event so great and thank you all for bringing us one step closer to the playground the kids deserve. If you would like to know more about the Jubilee Park Playground project, please contact Suzanne Vautier at 541-592-3939.  
**Suzanne Vautier  
Kerby**

## Do Your Homework!

Kurt Krauss was unfairly represented in the letter by Allison Bayard. She obviously does not know Kurt, nor understand business. For instance, revenue does not reflect profit (nor include loss) so for her to imply Krauss Craft has millions sitting around is unfounded. Any business, no matter how many employees, has to make prudent business decisions to retain those employees and avoid layoffs during tough economic times. Krauss Craft does not buy any parts from China. In fact, Krauss Craft makes more of its own components in-house than any other US playground manufacturer. Kurt Krauss has dedicated 23 years of his life to growing his company and providing hundreds of jobs which in turn generates revenue to benefit many. And Kurt has always been community-minded, making many donations and contributions throughout the years, so it is a shame that he was so unfairly portrayed by someone who knows so little.

**Kathleen Weckerle  
Grants Pass**

# Here, There & Everywhere

**NOTICE: Location Change**  
Due to some work still being done at the Belt Building please note the Illinois Valley Garden Club will meet at Immanuel United Methodist Church on Watkins Av. Across from Shop Smart for the Feb. 18 meeting. Al Cook will speak on "Water features in your garden." Horticulture Table/ Show & Tell: Pond edge plants. Third Friday of the month with Coffee Hour at 12:30pm and the meeting at 1:00pm  
**Every Wednesday**  
Wild River Pizza - Open Mic. 6-8pm Call Todd Kaberline or Jim Nolan 54-646-0975 or 541-660-8572

**February 17 & 18**  
Rummage & Bake Sale - The Senior Class of 2011 will have a fundraiser at the IVHS Cafeteria. Please use the South entrance bus pick up and drop off area. Items offered: Dressers, mirrors, clothes, night stands, chairs & much more.  
**February 19**  
Illinois Valley Little League presents their 2nd Annual Chili Feed & Chili Cook-off contest. Evening entertainment, silent auction & live band. From 4:00-7:00pm at the County Building. \$5.00 per meal includes chili, corn bread, dessert & drink. To sign up for the cook-off call Shelly Davis at 541-415-1718 or Chasty Cavazos at 541-287-2113

**February 24 & 25**  
The Illinois Valley High School Performing Arts Department will present The Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta, H.M.S. Pinafore on February 24th. (Show on 25th canceled due to Basketball playoffs) The production will be held in the IVHS commons at 4:00 and 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$3.00 or \$2.00 with a student/school staff ID. H.M.S. Pinafore is a comic operetta (a shorter, lighter opera) which examines romance and social classes onboard a fictional nineteenth-century British warship. Lavish costumes and memorable characters make this period-piece one of theatre's most beloved works.

**February 24**  
Josephine County Republican Women Regular Monthly Meeting Date: February 24, 2011 Time: 12:00 PM - (11:45 to order lunch) Place: Elmer's Restaurant - GP Program: Harold Haugen - "Private Property Rights" Former Josephine County Commissioner. Works with the Board of Realtors on private property rights Knowledgeable about Oregon Measures 66 & 67 and how it affects businesses in Oregon Q&A to follow Be sure to sign up or renew your membership - See Sylvia for more info For more information, please call: Barbara Biencourt - 541 476-3828 Sandy Abercrombie - 541 941-7474 Sandy Spickler - 541

471-1951 Sylvia McLoughlin - 541 476-6923 or visit website: orgsites.com/or/josephinecorw Everyone Welcome!  
**February 26**  
Come join us for a FREE birdhouse building workshop - FREE for all ages! This will be a wonderful activity for families! All supplies will be provided, and you are welcome to take your birdhouse home with you. Bring your family, a pair of gloves, and a hammer and leave with a handcrafted birdhouse created by you!!! 10-3pm, lunch provided at The Josephine County Building located at 102 S. Redwood Hwy in Cave Junction. Then, join us afterwards at the Rusk Ranch

Nature Center for a campfire and marshmallow roast from 3 - 5 pm! (Weather permitting) at the Rusk Ranch Nature Center located at 27750 Redwood Hwy. Cave Junction. Directions from Cave Junction: Go 1 mile south on Hwy 199, turn right just after Phillips Auto Wrecking. Entrance is across the highway from Pinewood Way. Upon entering, follow signs to parking area (approx. 1/2 mile).  
**May 7**  
The Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held on May 7 from 9:00am to ?? in front of the County Building on Redwood Hwy in Cave Junction.

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(541)592-3386 ~ sisqdeb@gmail.com

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