

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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.

Letter to the editor,

Where is Big Foot? That question has been asked for many years. Of course for us that live in this area we know the answer- He stands on the side of Hwy. 199 going to Grants Pass by the Wonder General Store, at least he did. He is missing in action!!! For the longest time he was always decorated with the Holiday spirit standing on the side of the road watching us speeding. Where did he go??? Is he on vacation, in the hospital, on an "out of state" assignment or just now unemployed like most of us. Hope you are OK, we miss you, when are you coming back?

**Larry Braden
Cave Junction.**

Editors note:

Bigfoot was spotted Sunday, May 4. djm

Bureaucratic governments

always develop into aristocracies. Bureaucracies betray the true intent of people who form such governments. Right from the first the little people who forced the government which promised to equalize the social burdens find themselves suddenly in the hands of bureaucratic aristocracies. Reduce the size and the parasitic nature of the management bureaucracy.

The government of the few, by the few, for the few, at the expense of the many. They restrain the will. They regulate with permits. They fence in the possibilities of freedom. They deny the existence of any truth and true freedom.

Governments can be useful to the governed only so long as inherent tendencies toward tyranny are restrained and controlled by the governed.

The big time criminals in our society are called politicians. They demand more control, more codes, rules, regulations, laws, fees, permits and taxes. Stricter punishment, more enforcement.

What is freedom when it's only the choice of obeying codes, rules, regulation and laws? To paying fees and taxes for permits that limit freedom. What is justice with a gun, with threats of jail, state prison and federal prison? Truth - a lawyer at \$3,000 down and \$150 to \$295 an hour? Is this really the freedom the Constitution of America promised us?

You think regulation of land, use of lands or bonding waterway is the only thing on the agenda? How about registration, permits and meters on all water wells? With fees, taxes and fines on all water used?

These autocratic management bureaucracies have agendas to enforce, control, limit and profit on the backs of the many. To guarantee job security and wealth for the few.

The only thing we can do to stop them is to vote to close down autocratic management bureaucracies. Vote no new taxes or fees on anything. Just say no! No! No! And no more!

**Mark Wiehers
Cave Junction**

I am a resident and home owner in Cave Junction, Josephine County. Earlier last week I attended

the quarterly meeting of our County Commissioners. We were told the City Council of Cave Junction was supposed to meet with the commissioners prior to the public meeting. The City Council did not show up. Our meeting was held by our three Commissioners, Simon Hare, Cheryl Walker and Keith Heck with a few members of the Illinois Valley community, including myself.

The first topic was Commissioner Hare's choice in obvious support of Rough & Ready mill in his public commentary regarding their closing of Rough & Ready mill vs. his being elected to support all the people, including those who may object to some of their practices. It was pointed out that Rough & Ready did support Hare's election having his name on the side of their logging truck during his campaign. He said that was true while denying he had dinner with them. He was then asked about his choice of the word "extreme environmentalists" as being the reason for the closing of the mill. Why did he choose to label those who may be environmentalists as "extreme"? He said it was a personal opinion, one he was entitled to and the meeting was not the place to talk about it. It was mentioned that his comments were on the JoCo website. He denied that. Commissioner Heck pointed out if it was, it never should have been. He also indicated mistakes can happen.

Mr. Hare said that any time environmentalists use the court system to try to stop mill activities that was extreme. It was mentioned rules or regulations had been broken but he still felt anytime courts are used, he felt that was extreme.

The issue of the mill's choice of spraying herbicide on their clearcuts was brought up as the reason for objections to mill practices, not logging. That it was their continued use of toxins that was reason for

concern. It was not long after that, Mr. Hare, who (as far as I could tell) had not even been noting down any points the citizens had brought to his attention, said something like "I'm not going to explain," did not finish his sentence, and then got up and left the meeting without further notice. He did not return to the meeting or explain why he felt compelled to leave.

I thought this was extremely rude and unfitting of an elected representative of the people. Mr. Hare was elected by the people of Josephine County to represent the people of Josephine County. He is paid to listen to our concerns. His leaving the meeting was also apparently not the first time he walked out on the people he is supposed to represent. I did not vote for Mr. Hare to represent me, he obviously does not care to represent me, and I will not be voting for him to represent me in the future. I have read several articles with his byline in the different publications in this area, and each one is basically an advertisement for continuing and growing the logging industry. I am not accusing Mr. Hare of being a paid spokesperson for Rough & Ready or any other company whose interests he appears to be so concerned about, but what is bothering me is that the taxpayers of Josephine County are the ones paying him to be a spokesperson for Rough & Ready. Thank goodness at least we have two commissioners who do seem to care and listened intently to what the citizens had to say about toxic poisons used by our mills.

**Gwen Sky
Cave Junction**

Save Our Children?

California Senator Diane Feinstein is proposing an AR-style rifle ban to save our children. Yet on this 40th anniversary of Roe V. Wade,

she doesn't mention the 54 million abortions conducted in this country or show remorse for this disrespect for human life. Speeches at every Democratic National Convention reference abortion or a pro-choice platform to huge cheers from the rabid convention hall audience. Mother Teresa identified the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion because it is a war against children, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. If a mother can kill her own child and then tell young people not to kill one another, it is the ultimate hypocrisy in the eyes of the young.

Feinstein and her cohorts are using the Sandy Hook tragedy as a first step to trash our Second Amendment right for law-abiding citizens to own and bear arms as a defense against tyranny. Abolishing our Second Amendment is necessary for President Obama as described in his July 2, 2008 speech given in Boulder, CO where he promised the creation and establishment of a "Civilian National Security Force that would be just as powerful, just as strong and just as well funded as the U.S. Military."

The national security objectives described by Obama define a brutal totalitarian government modeled after the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. Achieving his objectives is currently being initiated using the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act that he signed into law on January 2 that allows the arrest and indefinite military detention of U.S. citizens. In addition, Obama can secretly target U.S. citizens for execution without even charging them with a crime as admitted by AG Eric Holder.

**Robert A. Dahlquist
Orange County, CA**

Page Creek Project

A community meeting and workshop will be held on Tuesday May 14 at the Takilma Community Building / Dome School from 6:00 - 8:00pm to discuss plans for the Page Creek Community Forest Project. The goal of the Project is to develop a cooperative and interactive partnership with the Forest Service to achieve key community and land management goals by implementing multi-year demonstration projects in two forest stands on USFS public land in the Page Creek area near Takilma.

The Forestry Practices Working Group of the Josephine County Stewardship Group, which is comprised of local citizens and USFS staff, are inviting all interested community members to participate. Our mission is to promote community-based forest management projects which integrate ecological, economic, and social considerations as "three legs of a stool." We want

Illinois Valley residents to bring forward their ideas for best management of these federal lands which will foster a mutual benefit between these lands and the people of the Illinois Valley.

Key questions that will be asked are: How do you use these lands? What is important about these lands? What are your ideas for management projects? What kinds of community benefits are possible?

The Forestry Practices Working Group was formed in response to issues raised by residents during the Illinois Valley Landscape Assessment in 2011-12. The group is open membership and operates by consensus, mutual respect, and courtesy. These ground rules guarantee everyone a true place at the table regarding management of these lands.

For more information about the Page Creek Community Forest Project call 541-660-

Fire ... Continued from A-1

Recent warm and sunny weather followed by thunderstorms and lightening has sparked numerous wildfires and firefighters have been scrambling statewide. Since regional firefighting teams are not yet fully staffed in May, they have been forced to divert resources to cover all the bases.

"The available firefighter pool isn't very deep right now," said Brian Ballou, a fire prevention specialist for ODF's Southwest Oregon District.

In addition to about a half-dozen small fires in Josephine County and two others in the Wagner Creek and Anderson Butte areas, wildfires are burning in Douglas County, Lane County and Central Oregon, according to Ballou.

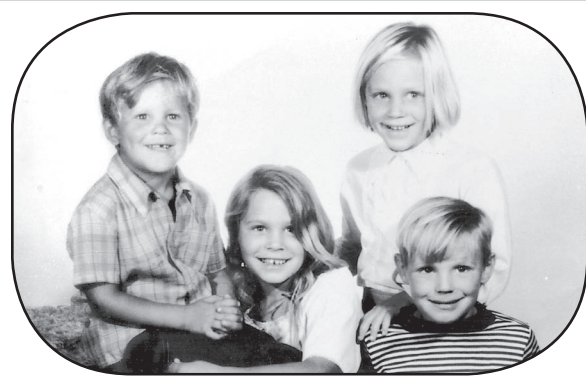
"The good news is that the fires have been manageable," he said. "The woods just aren't

ready to burn aggressively yet."

Even though trees are still retaining some of their moisture, conditions are still dangerously dry, Ballou said.

"A rapidly vanishing snow pack and not enough rain could result in an extreme fire season in SW Oregon," he added.

Anyone burning brush piles in the valley needs to get a free residential burn permit from the IV Fire District. Ismaili wants the public to realize that while the permit will come with an expiration date of May 31, if an early fire season is called for, those permits will become "null and void." Fire permits are available at the IV Fire District office at 681 Caves Hwy or online at <http://www.ivfire.com>.



"Shan,"

*It's nifty being fifty. That's what I hear.
After 49, it's just another year,
So please don't fret or shed a tear,
Cause it'll be my turn next year.*

"Q"

Save the date

May 8

Pagan's Night Out meet other Pagans in our area & help plan future events! Wed May 8, 5:30pm at Commune-I-tea Tea shop 148 Redwood Ave, Cave Junction 541-244-8051

May 10

On Friday, May 10, from 5-8 p.m. Spiral Living Center's I.V. Bikespace is offering free bicycle maintenance outside the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction. Eight Americorp NCCC Team Members will join Bikespace mechanics in safety checking bicycles, adjusting helmets and performing basic bicycle maintenance at Art Walk. This service is provided prior to the Otis Memorial Bike Ride, an eighteen-mile family fun ride, which will take place on Sunday, May 19th. To learn more contact the Spiral Living Center at 541-592-3642, spiral@spiralliving.org, or visit the information table at the bike repair station at Art Walk.

May 11

May 11, Free gardening class provided by the Master Gardeners of Josephine County at the Community Garden, 103 S. Kerby Ave. Class and B.B.Q. from 2-5 p.m.

May 12

The Chateau at the Oregon Caves is proud to present the RCC Illinois Valley Chorus for a special Mother's Day concert, 4 p.m. Sunday, May 12th. The 20-singer group, directed by Kate Campbell, will perform a selection of

compositions by Irving Berlin, Hoagy Carmichael and others. Cave tours will be available throughout the day. Visitors must be 42 inches tall to participate in the tour. The National Monument also features hiking trails.

The Chateau dining room will be regular menu items and specials from noon to 8 p.m. including Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala and Italian Herb Cod. Caves Café will also be open from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Guests are asked to call 541-592-3400 for dining reservations. The Chateau at the Oregon Caves is managed by Oregon Caves Outfitters, Authorized Concessionaire of the National Park Service.

May 15

May 15 is SMART Restaurant Day. Our own Wild River Brewing & Pizza will be donating a percentage of their proceeds to SMART that day. The community needs to support them to help pay for the books given out to our kids!

May 22

IRVAC presents Surf's Up Family Night at Lorna Byrne Middle School on Wednesday, May 22 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pizza dinner starts at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. Join us for fun activities, snow cones, watermelon, crafts to take home, hula hoop contests, limbo and beach volleyball games, music, raffle prizes. Scholastic Book Fair from 6:00p.m. to 7:30p.m. Questions, phone Joann Snook at 541-592-2163.

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