

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers)

Anyone else's paychecks keeping up with Inflation?

The Oregon PUC authorized ANOTHER increase requested by Pacific Power. My calculations based on only my bill is an increase of 37%.

Did I just miss the request? Was it published in small print on our bill? Why do they deserve it?

How many customers do they have? For round numbers, let's say one million. If each household is increased only \$1.00, Pac Power made \$1,000,000.00.

What is this "public purpose" charge?

The "Energy Conservation Charge"?

The almost a dollar for the "Low Income Assistance" charge?

Several years ago when my job went away & I was concerned about paying my power bill, I called the # on the back. You know, the one with great spin that says: "If you find yourself in a position in which you are not able to pay your electric bills, we encourage you to contact us; we have a variety of options to help?"

So I did. First question this user friendly company rep asked was whether I'd received a notice that they would shut off my electricity. Answer: No

Response: I suggest you go to your local church, they have funds set aside to help.

So again, where are our payments going? Just gathering interest for the company or executive bonuses?

I'd inquired the last time PacPower requested an increase. What I'd learned is that our state politicians make the laws, the triumvirate PUC adheres to it. There's a group of concerned citizens who provide input to the PUC asking for the rationale of why there should be an increase or suggest a lesser increase than requested (to no avail).

So circle jerk that it is, which is why I'm not going to frustrate myself with this non-transparent system, the rationale I've been told is Pac Power requests a rate increase, if it's "within the guidelines of the law" it's granted.

Why do we need 3 people sitting on the PUC being paid for approving requests?

DANG! wish it were so easy for we employees. Go ask the boss for an increase to keep up with inflation.

Then there was the Mail Tribune article last week that said the Medford building rates were increasing by 20%.

Just received my Dish bill. Yup, rate increase. Everyone has good PR spin -- prices are going up, gotta keep up with inflation.

Guess how much Social Security went up for 2014? One point five percent (1.5%) That's called a COLA - Cost of Living Adjustment.

Does NOT begin to cover increase in food, gas, definitely not utilities, house insurance, car insurance, property taxes.

We pay our Federal politicians \$174,500.00 annually. That comes to about \$14,500.00 A MONTH.

What's the Federal poverty level? It's about \$14,500.00 ANNUALLY.

No wonder our politicians haven't a clue about the working person & based on recent legislation, prefer to subsidize big Ag, big Oil & not extend unemployment benefits or food stamps.

Wonder why about 51% of our Federal politicians are millionaires while only 1% of the general public is?

B. A. Grodhaus
Cave Junction

DeFazio is no friend

While Peter DeFazio may have publicly applauded the

provisions of the Farm Bill regarding the full funding in it for organic farming (IV News, 2/12/14), were you aware he voted against it? As a Josephine Co. Farm Bureau member I find his "no" vote extremely disingenuous.

His reasoning? He claimed he just couldn't vote for a 1% cut in the SNAP (Food Stamp) Program, which accounts for almost three-quarters of this trillion-dollar Bill. Fortunately, his fellow Oregon Democrat Kurt Schrader and others who got the Bill passed must have read it before voting. Not one Oregonian will lose their base benefit, and if the state puts at least \$20 annually toward an eligible individual's heating bill, or a copy of one's heating bill is presented to the state, they can keep their increased benefit.

He was also willing to vote away \$56 billion in conservation funding and

\$15.6 million in PILT (in lieu of payments) to Oregon counties to help cover losses of property taxes on federal lands. DeFazio is certainly no friend of Oregon farmers or citizens.

Lynne Vanderlinden
Cave Junction

You are what you eat

Thank you Mr. Dez for your January 15 I.V. News article about "Meat." I was encouraged by it. My health has improved greatly since I stopped eating meat and cheese a few years ago. My cancer is gone. Not only has my high cholesterol been greatly reduced, but I hardly ever seem to get sick anymore. I'm really enjoying the healthful life since I learned about the problems that meat eating can cause. Now I understand what "You dig your grave with your teeth" and "You are what you eat," means. Especially when we get older, we have to be careful what kind of food we put into our bodies. Let's eat the foods that have healing power, that is plant food.

Thank you again.

Etta Mack
Cave Junction

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Obituaries

Rex Dean Kerr, age 78, of Selma, died Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at his home.

No public services are planned. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Please sign the family guest book at www.since1928hull.com.

Rex was born September 9, 1935 in Miller, MO. His father left the family six weeks after his birth and with his mother so young, Rex spent a lot of time with his grandparents. He grew up in Tulare, Calif. living on a farm and spending much of his free time riding horses. During high school his two main interests were football and horses - riding broncs and team roping until an injury helped him decide that fishing was a much safer sport. In 1954 he married Bonnie Pay and they later divorced. In 1955 he joined the United States Army. In 1968 he married Margaret Daniels and they later divorced. Rex sold insurance for awhile, but found driving trucks was his real love and for 25 years he worked for Delta Freight Lines. He also worked for Von's Groceries until his retirement. In 1999 he married Earlene Edwards and in 2003 he moved from Hornbrook, Calif. to Selma.

After Rex's son Rodger found

Rex's father and siblings on the internet in 1998, Rex met his two brothers, Don and John and sister, Joanne.

Rex was a gold miner and belonged to the New 49ers Gold Club since 1996. He also belonged to the Teamsters, the Eagles Lodge in Medford, and Disabled Veterans of Ore.

With a lake only three miles away, he spent much of his free time at Lake Selmac. His life-long love was fishing.

Survivors include his wife, Earlene Edwards; three children; Todd Kerr, Michele Noppers, and Nancy Gerard; two brothers, Don and John; 16 grandchildren; and 44 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Rex Jr. and Rodger; and a sister, Joanne.

Adella Mae Young, former resident of Cave Junction, Kerby, and Roseburg, Ore., having lived most recently in Richland, Wash., went to be with the Lord on February 3, 2014, at the home of her daughter in Etna, Calif. She was 85 years old.

For many years, Adella was an active member of Women of the Moose, receiving her Star Recorder Award several times. She was a Field Operations Coordinator with Experi-

ence Works, touching many lives in the Southern Oregon Area.

Adella was born December 12, 1928, in Broken Bow, Neb. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jay Oakes and Christine Slama Oakes; her brother, Collins Oakes and her husbands Francis Badden, Bill Cowdrey and Rendall Young.

Adella is survived by her children: daughter, Nancy Silva and her husband, Gerry; son, James Badden and wife, Janet; daughter, Susan Hiatt and husband, Glenn; grandchildren, Lindsay Thumm, Brian Silva, West Hiatt, Jamie and Tanner Badden; great grandchildren, Curren and Greyson Thumm, Marissa Hiatt, Jackson and William Silva.

Adella was a much loved sister, daughter, mother, and friend. She will be remembered for her sense of humor and missed by all who knew, loved and cherished her.

A private family memorial service will be held in Wash. on Feb. 22, 2014. Girdner Funeral Chapel is assisting the family. Online condolences can be made at www.gridnerfuneralchapel.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Madrone Hospice of Yreka, Calif.: www.madronehospice.org/ in memory of Adella Young.

Margaret "Peggy" Bod-

kin, 53 years young, passed away suddenly due to complications of Dehydration and Peripheral Vascular Disease, also known as Toxic Shock Syndrome on December 9, 2013.

Peggy was born Margaret Jane Purdon on September 12, 1960 in Portland, Ore. to Glen and Katherine Purdon of Salem, Ore.; where she grew up, went to school and attended church at First Congregational United Church of Christ. She also attended college in both Salem and Monmouth, Ore. and wanted to become a teacher.

Peggy lived in the Illinois Valley, residing in Kerby since 2004. She leaves behind her best friend and soul mate Mike Brewer; a brother Carl; six children and eight grandchildren between her and Mike.

Mike and Peggy met as friends, and thru years of companionship, became soul mates. They loved traveling, camping, boating, and enjoyed natures wilderness together, beachcombing and the Oregon Coast.

Peggy was a partner at "Treasures of the World", in Cave Junction at the time of her death. She was also one of Avon's ladies, serving the

Southern Oregon region from Brookings to Medford.

Peggy and Mike also spent many hours of their lives ministering to the needs of their respective kids and grandkids that they loved and sacrificed themselves for.

A service to Honor Peggy's life will be held Friday, Feb. 21, at 2:00pm, at I.V. Funeral Home in Cave Junction.



Save The Date

Feb. 21

Bird watchers have more fun. Honestly they do! We live on a migratory route in Cave Junction so we see a number of birds (some locals, some passing through). Harry Johnson, our local bird watcher, can, and will tell more Friday, Feb. 21 when he gives a presentation at the Illinois Valley (IV) Garden Club. He will answer your questions and take comments as he does in his Illinois Valley news column. The IV Garden Club meets the 3rd Friday of the month at United Methodist Church, 200 W Watkins (across from Shop Smart) in Cave Junction, OR. Coffee hour at 12:30PM. Meeting at 1PM. For in-

formation call 541-592-6009.

Feb. 22

Tired of Winter? Join us for "LOVE BOAT - A Caribbean Cruise!" 5 - 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Selma Community Center! 5 p.m.: Silent Auction, No-Host Bar & Rumba Lesson. 6 p.m.: Dinner Catered by The Vine Restaurant, Dance to Oregon Little Big Band Duo & Live Auction. Formal or Resort Wear Please! \$25 person, \$40 couple. Tickets: Evergreen Federal Bank, C.J. or G.P. main branch. No ticket sales after Feb. 14! Special Thanks to Deer Creek Vineyards, Evergreen Federal Bank, Wild River Brewing & Pizza.

Fund-raiser for Illinois River Valley Arts Council's public benefit programs. www.irvac.com 541-592-4444.

Feb. 26

Wed, February 26th - Craft Night: Origami, 6 p.m.

Roberta and Rochelle are folding fancy paper into beautiful flowers and would love to share the joy. Paper and instruction are supplied, just come join us! Where: IV Library 209 W Palmer St, Cave Junction, OR 97523 (541) 592-4770 contact: Roberta Lee rlee@josephinelibrary.org

Feb. 27

The American Red Cross needs blood and platelet donors to help re-

stock the blood supply this February. Severe winter weather throughout January across much of the country forced the cancellation of about 770 Red Cross blood drives, resulting in more than 25,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations.

On average, the Red Cross must collect about 15,000 units of blood every day for patients at approximately 2,700 hospitals and transfusion centers across the country. With additional winter weather already forecast for parts of the country in the next week or two, all blood types are currently needed to ensure a sufficient blood supply is available for patients.

There is an urgent need for blood types O positive, O negative, A negative and B negative. Eligible donors with these blood types are strongly encouraged to make an appointment to give in the coming days.

While weather in this area did not cause problems for blood drives, the Red Cross hopes local blood donors will continue to support patients in need.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Josephine County:

Thursday, February 27: 12:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 East River Street, Cave Junction

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