

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

**Citizens’ Levy
Unprecedented Farce**
I cannot recall a single time in my life that there has been a citizens’

initiative to raise property taxes for public safety. Do I believe that we are so crime ridden in this county that the citizens are finally crying out, “Tax me more! Take whatever you want! Just protect us for God’s sake!”? The answer would be, “No.”
This levy was developed by the Securing Our Safety (S.O.S.) group. While technically citizens, this group is a rabidly outspoken proponent for higher property taxes for public safety. The S.O.S. group, along with Pat Fahy (appointed chair of the Josephine Co. Budget Committee and head of S.O.S. group), were instrumental in heavily promoting the past two failed referred public safety levies.
This interesting approach accomplishes two things. It continues the voter abuse of ignoring the will of the majority and it gives our doomed-to-face-recall county commissioners

a reprieve from once again failing to perform the main function of their jobs, which is representing the majority that hired them.
Securing Our Safety or, as it seems, “Securing Our Salaries”, claims residents of this county expect the Federal Government to fund our local government services. In fact, it is the county officials crying foul since the feds broke their agreement with them. When the Northwest Forest Management Plan limited logging on public lands, the Federal Government made agreements with the affected county governments, not residents. The agreement was to make direct payments of federal funds to these counties to make up for lost revenues.
As mills closed, and the residents lost their living wage jobs, these counties were able to continue

to inflate wages and benefits to public employees because of the federal payments (O and C subsidies). As jobs evaporated, and the standard of living plummeted for the private sector, the public sector flourished - instead of falling with everyone else. For instance, each of our three commissioners are compensated over \$90,000 wages and benefits. One of these commissioners told me that the lowest paid deputy Josephine County has makes \$93,000 wages and benefits per year. June 27th, 2013, the Grant’s Pass Daily Courier reported that County Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Rosemary Padgett is salaried at \$8,301 per month. Yes, per month. Contrary to some beliefs, these jobs do not require any extraordinary education, physical demands, experience or bravery. Line up ten of these individuals and you have roughly a

\$1,000,000 liability to the taxpayer.
Private sector jobs are few in this county, securing a living wage job can be compared to winning a lottery. Our public officials are more than O.K. with depriving the impoverished masses of whatever it takes to maintain the lifestyle that they have become accustomed to.
I will not support any tax increases to fund salaries for individuals, who believe their “labor” is more valuable than the labor of those expected to pay the bill. I believe that nothing will change as long as we elect people who claim to support “services” but fail to acknowledge the facts above.
Sincerely,
**Raymond Smith
Cave Junction**

Obituaries

Bob R. Surritt, age 78, of Cave Junction, died Saturday, March 29, 2014 at his home.
No services are planned. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.
Please sign the family guest book at www.since1928hull.com.

Bob was born August 17, 1935 in Atchison, Kansas. On September 25, 1961 in Las Vegas, Nev. he married Elaine Seaman. For 38 years he worked as a journeyman carpenter. He moved from Vancouver, Wash. to Cave Junction 14 years ago.
Bob especially enjoyed woodworking.
Survivors include his wife, Elaine Surritt of Cave Junction; five children, James Surritt, William Surritt, and Bobbie Surritt all of Vancouver, Wash. and Scott Surritt and Mark Surritt both of Los Angeles, Calif.; a sister, Peg Kling of Denver, Colo.; and three grandchildren.

Manuel Perry Martinho, age 83, of Cave Junction, passed away of natural causes on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at his home surrounded by his family.
He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, nine children, 27 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and his sister. He was preceded in death by his parents and youngest sister.
Viewing and Rosary will be at Illinois Valley Funeral Directors, 26569 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 12, 2014.
A Funeral Mass will commence at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 12, 2014 at St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church, 407 W River St., Cave Junction, Oregon 97523. A reception will immediately follow in the parish hall.

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

Manuel was born on January 15, 1931, in Waukena, Calif. He was born to Manuel and Wilhelmina Martinho, American immigrants from the Azores Islands, Portugal, and was the middle child of eight children. His family was especially proud that Manuel was a devout Catholic his whole life, having studied for the Priesthood as a young man, was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Tulare Calif., and the usher at St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church for several decades. He helped in the construction of the Gasquet Tunnel between Cave Junction and Crescent City, Calif.; and the Burney Falls Tunnel in Calif. For 15 years he owned Martinho Construction which served the Southern Oregon area. In 2003 he retired from his business, House Mouse Cleaning Service, which he turned over to his son.
Manuel enjoyed family barbecues, camping, cooking for various community events and loved playing the card game, “Kings Corners”. Manuel donated a lot of his time and efforts to the Cave Junction community including cooking holiday meals for those who were in need.
He is survived by three daughters, Jean Williams of Glendale, Ore.; Kathleen McVarish of Cave Junction; Cynthia Scott of Eagle Point; sons, Manuel Terry Martinho of Crescent City, Calif.; Lee Martinho of Cave Junction; Chris Martinho of Wonder; and Manuel Perry Martinho Jr of Cave Junction; his former wife, Eva Marie Johnson of Ashland; sister, Eva Evangelo of Tulere, Calif.; eighteen grandchildren and thirty-five great-grandchildren.
Manuel is preceded in death by first wife, Carol Jean Robinson Martinho; brothers, Augie, Tony, and Danny; sisters, Lena,

Rose, and Mary; daughter, Maria Annette Martinho and son, Eric Neil Martinho and grandchildren, Maria Jean Martinho and Joshua Williams.

G. Frank Sybrant, age 67, of Cave Junction, passed peacefully in his sleep and returned to his Father in Heaven on April 3, 2014.
A memorial service to honor his life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12, 2014 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Grants Pass Stake Center, 1969 Williams Hwy, Grants Pass, Oregon. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.
Please sign the family guest book at www.since1928hull.com.

Frank was born February 7, 1947 in San Francisco, Calif., eldest son of George and Isabelle Sybrant. In 1965 he married his childhood sweetheart, Carol Godwin in Chico, Calif. Frank and Carol settled in Southern Oregon to raise their nine children. A natural entrepreneur, Frank supported his family as a respected Attorney and successful business owner.
Frank was an active and giving member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving most recently as the Bishop of the Cave Junction Ward in the Grants Pass Stake. Bishop Sybrant ends his service here in this life with 35 years of dedication to his Faith. As an avid gardener he shared his green thumb and passion for sustainability as an active member and leader in his Illinois Valley community.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM

541-592-4110

Save The Date

April 9
Illinois Valley High School 21st Century Enrichment After School Programs present: Parent/Family Night and Spaghetti Dinner
Wednesday, April 9th, 2014. 6:00-7:30 PM. At Illinois Valley High School: 625 E. River St., Cave Junction, OR.
FREE! 6:00-6:45: Meet the instructors and try out activities 6:45-7:30: Enjoy a complementary dinner of spaghetti, salad, and rolls prepared by the Healthy Cooking class.
After school classes have been provided by a grant through the 21st Century Community Learning Center and are open to I.V. High School students, home schooled students at the level of 9th-12th grades or students enrolled in a GED program. Parents and relatives of any of these types of students are also welcome to participate in this program.
For more information email: Trisha Wall at iv21stccle@gmail.com
Or call: 541-592-2116

April 12
Rough & Ready Wildflower Hike on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 10 a.m. Meet at the parking area at Rough & Ready Botanical Wayside south of Cave Junction on Hwy 199 at Mile Marker 34. The walk through the Rough and Ready Wayside is geared for plant enthusiasts and novices alike. This is a great opportunity for folks to come out and enjoy the spring wildflowers no matter what your skill level on plant identification might be. It will be a short hike on rocky, but relatively level ground with lots of beautiful wildflowers to see, many of them are rare or of limited range. A portion of the hike will be along a wheel-chair accessible path so folks of limited mobility can come out and enjoy the wildflowers too. Be prepared: bring water, dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes. For more information call Suzanne at

541-291-8860. Sponsored by Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network (CEEN) and the Native Plant Society.

April 12
The Frog Farm is located at 9044 Takilma Road in Takilma. The free event will offer a workshop in seed saving basics, kids’ activities, and cookies and tea. Event organizer Deb Lukas states: “We are a working farm. Please leave your dogs at home.”

April 12
FREE Eye Clinic Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. (9:00 a.m.- Noon by appointment, Noon - 3:00 p.m. walk-ins welcome). At the Illinois Valley High School Gym. Free eye exam & pair of glasses (if needed). To schedule an appointment call 541-787-0860. Please leave a message. This clinic is brought to you by Amigo Vision, Josephine County Foundation & IVHS Leadership Class.

April 12
Open House on April 12, 2014 to invite Bud Winter’s friends and relatives to spend the day to help celebrate his 100th birthday. Steak, chicken, barbecue, plus sides will be served from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. followed by birthday cake & ice cream. 5138 Holland Loop Dr., Cave Junction, 541-592-2743.

April 13
Who decides: Our Communities or Big Corporations? Join the Conversation in Grants Pass!
Community Rights Josephine County invites you to participate in Community Rights Conversations, a new open group discussion series on topics related to our common goal of elevating local community rights over corporate “rights”.
This community conversation is a free, open & participatory event with the intention of deepening our understanding of the challenges

we face, as well as the opportunities involved in confronting corporate power and taking back our rights. We’ll also have some fun, as we build community and an engaged citizen base on behalf of community rights.
About Us: Community Rights Josephine County is working to educate our communities about local self-government and engaging people in advancing community rights.
Sunday, April 13, 2014 ~ 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. @ The Taprock Bar & Grill (Evergreen Room), Grants Pass (971 SE 7th St.) Refreshments provided! The annual Spring Seed Swap & Meet is scheduled to take place from noon to 3 p.m. at the Frog Farm Octagon building this Saturday,

April 15
The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce and The Illinois Valley News will present a Public Forum. The purpose of this forum is to introduce all the candidates for the office of Josephine County Commissioner, County Legal Council and Sheriff.
This event will be held at the County Building, 102 S. Redwood Hwy in Cave Junction on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

April 16
The IV Forestry Practices Working Group will meet 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 at the Kerby Belt Building to discuss the Page Creek Project in Takilma. According to group spokesman Frederick Mittleman, “Everyone is invited to sit at the table.”

April 16
2014 OSU Master Food Preserver Course Orientation - April 16, 2014 Classes start April 24 through May 29, 2014 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost-\$150. Applications available in January. 2014 Instructors: Certified Master Food Preservers from Jackson and Josephine Counties and Jeanne Brandt (statewide coordinator).

We invite you to an eight class learning adventure in the food preservation arts. Along the way student trainees learn how to prepare garden produce for preserving, the ins and outs of food preservation equipment, how to water-bath and pressure can safely and efficiently, as well as a host of other skills! Classes are held at the Josephine County Extension Auditorium and start April 24 with 6 consecutive Thursdays and two Saturday Labs (May 3 and 17) ending on May 29th. Tuition is \$120 + \$30 for the manual and 48 volunteer educational service hours.
If you have any questions contact Jeanne Evers via email: jeanne.evers@oregonstate.edu

April 18
The Cave Junction Farmers Market opens Friday, April 18th 2014, at the Junction of Redwood and Caves Highway in downtown Cave Junction, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., every Friday through October 31, 2014.

April 18
Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A rummage sale to benefit the Dome School Rangers after school program at the JoCo building in C.J. Donations may be brought on Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. Call 541-592-3911 with questions.

April 21
PRECIOUS DIRT - Pesticide Meeting April 21st ~ @ The C.J. County Bldg FEATURING - the Documentary Film – CHEMICAL REACTION
A movie that speaks directly to chemical trespass, and two of the primary chemicals sprayed within our valley: 2,4-D and Glyphosate/Roundup
6:00 - 6:30 Social ~ 6:30 - 7:40 Movie ~ 7:40 - 8:30 Open Discussion
Coffee/Tea and Goodies provided ~ www.PreciousDirt.org County Bldg, 102 S. Redwood Hwy @ Lister, Cave Junction 97523 Tea Lunch & Silent Auction benefiting the Pregnancy Cen-

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5 P.M. FRIDAYS

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