

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

Reader says NO

Has it occurred to Josephine County voters that Measure 17-59, the Juvenile Justice Center and jail levy to be considered May 20, was not initiated by the Commissioners, the peoples' representative? Is it possible that the JoCo Commissioners' last two law enforcement levies, having been trounced by voters, were afraid to propose another levy, or alternate funding option?

Instead, did the Commissioners opt for a "strawman" approach to tax property owners by ceding the taxing function to a group of private citizens, under the cloak of the Citizen's for Securing our Safety (CSOS) PAC, a quasi-taxing authority, without first publishing the proposed levy in local newspapers for public input, or receiving express permission of JoCo Commissioners, before initiating a petition drive?

Was it intentional that no part of the proposed levy provides for the enforcement process known as Sheriff Road Patrol? How is it that lawbreakers are to be discovered,

detained or transported to jail if there is no stated levy funding for additional deputies? Without express budget funding defined in the levy are taxpayers to rely on our Commissioners' promises to "fix" the lack of funds by transferring suddenly-found "unallocated carryover" or other "funds" after it passes?

Recently, Sheriff Gilbertson stated that road patrol deputies would be pulled from the jail staff, and that new jail staff replacements would be brought in and trained. Will new road patrolmen need training and be re-tested for physical fitness? Will new patrol vehicles be purchased and need upgrading to emergency needs?

Commissioner Simon Hare said recently that \$2 million in general fund money would be available from "unallocated carryover", if Measure 17-59 passes in May, for road patrol and DA needs; he also said "Our projected carryover for 2014-15 is nothing." But, no mention is made of guarantee of subsequent general fund monies for years 2015-19; if this carryover funding is not available, will the road patrol manpower revert to 2013-14 one or two deputy level?

The power to tax and property confiscation is a real economic loss of property owner's worth and rights, especially for people with limited incomes, all for the incarceration process only. Collateral damage from property confiscation results in loss of tax base, and increased county property liability which degrades over time, resulting in increased taxes on the remaining property owners.

It seems Measure 17-59 has serious flaws: No dedicated, sustained funding for

patrols in years 2015 - 19. No sustained road patrols: no crime reduction. No crime reduction, no need for county taxpayers to pass the levy!

Don't be surprised if a new levy for Sheriff's patrol is next, if the jail and JJC levy passes.

Don't vote for higher taxes and NO road patrols. Let's go back and get it right!

Vote NO on Measure 17-59.

**Teena Kindell
Cave Junction**

Reader says Vote!

Well, it's that time again...are you going to do your part? Vote? Well I've heard it over and over, year after year, "My vote doesn't count!" But how do "they" get in there if voting doesn't count? In a way, your vote doesn't count, because if you don't vote there isn't a vote to count...I'll always vote because it's my duty to do so, and it's my American right and a great privilege. Do you think that if we don't vote maybe they will all just go away? Not! Have you ever heard of this, if you don't vote, you really don't have anything to say about who won or didn't win?

I understand why some folks say their vote doesn't count, and maybe it's because their candidate didn't win. But if you did vote, you can complain, etc. Of course, you can complain at any time, but wouldn't you like to see a huge voter turnout this time? Wouldn't it be nice to see I.V. turnout surpass the other areas?

Maybe just maybe we get the right ones in this time and the sheriff will get our tax dollars he needs to bring law and order back to I.V. and all of JoCo, and get the bad guys out

of town like it used to be.

Have you noticed the criminals have more rights than honest folks like us? Yes, just think about this for a minute...burglars, thieves, druggies, etc. They get caught, fingerprinted, hot meals, clean jail, etc. for a few days or maybe a week then back out on the streets to do it again and again. But if we exercise our constitutional right to protect us and ourselves, I'll bet we would go to jail or be sued for doing so and have court costs, attorney fees and then have a criminal record. Isn't it just great how that now works?

I have an idea! Why not have a group of citizens, really good guys that run a tent camp approved by the people "your vote" and turn the bad guys over to the good guys and the good guys will then enact punishment? Not just a slap on the hands and then turn them loose to continue it again. I was asked years ago, what I would do about rape, human trafficking, etc. especially with children. Here's my answer: Be very clear that the accused person and or persons are found 100% guilty first. Then in the town it occurred in the mayor must then build a gallows and in public, hang them. Oooh. But that's cruel right? But, just sit down and think for a moment. What if it was your little precious boy or little girl that was abused? How would you feel? And what kind of life would they have constantly thinking about that act for the rest of their life? That's not a God given life at all. If that were to be a real event, I'll bet the bad guys would think twice before committing such an act. Oooh, but some will say that's just not right. It's too cruel. But if it happens to one of your kids or family, I'll bet

you would rethink about the justice of it all.

Those of you, who know me, know I'm not a mean person. And what I just said may seem mean and cruel, but I really believe it would put a stop to this sort of thing and it wouldn't cost the amount of tax dollars year after year to have the bad guys live without a care in the world about having a job, paying rent, buying food for the family, gas for their car, paying taxes, none of that.. You're paying for them to be well taken care of with your hard earned money. Taxes. How do you like that? Huh?

Well, I apologize if I've hurt anyone's feelings, but the crap needs to stop and I bet it will. Sooner than you think. Thank you for taking the time out and God Bless us one and all.

**Ken Legaux
Selma**

Reader decides

According to an IVN article (4/23/14), "All of the candidates expressed support for mining and logging and opposition to expanding the Oregon Caves National Monument except Nina Horsley who stated the opposite positions."

Now I know who's got my vote.

Thank you, IVN, for making the decision clear.

**Ryan Forsythe
O'Brien**

Reader says YES

Our situation since criminal justice services were slashed two years ago has been well documented, both in statistics and in anecdotes.

High-profile cases like the Cave Junction woman who was raped when 911 dispatch-

ers had no one to send to stop her ex-boyfriend from breaking in, or the unsolved hit-and-run deaths in Cave Junction have made national headlines. Our County's situation has been covered by everyone from the Associated Press to the Oregonian to National Public Radio.

This isn't just bad publicity. It's bad economics.

When we try to recruit new businesses to start companies here, convince much-needed medical professionals to practice here, or promote Josephine County tourism, what are we selling? Our community. And since 2012 what are we best known for? Not our climate, not our river. It's our unwillingness to pay for the basic law enforcement that other communities take for granted.

This makes Josephine County a hard sell. I have a friend who used to camp with her kids at Lake Selmac who says she will never do that again until she knows she can call 911 from the county and get a response. She is hardly alone. That is costing us tourism revenue, access to healthcare, business, and jobs.

The perspective of outsiders was summarized by a participant in an Oregonian forum who suggested the Josephine County stretch of I-5 should be lined with bulletproof glass so we locals could just shoot it out amongst ourselves.

This is about more than being embarrassed. This is about remaining a viable community with open businesses. We will all benefit in many ways by fixing the criminal justice crisis and the levy is just the first step. Please join me in voting "Yes" on the jail and Juvenile Justice levy.

**Elizabeth Hirni
Grants Pass**

Obituaries

Barbara Jean Jenkins-Peddicord 73, of Selma

She was born Dec. 9, 1940 to Eugene Edward Foster and Hilda Joyce (Smith) Foster.

She served in the United States Navy. She had a degree in History and spent her life as a part time bookkeeper and house wife.

She was a Choctaw Native American. She en-

joyed walking in the woods and cooking.

She is survived by her husband Robert Peddicord of Selma, stepson Charles S. Peddicord of Oregon, one sister, Edna Jane Diggs of Memphis Tenn. and a nephew, Paul Eugene Diggs of Memphis Tenn.

Date of death and services were not provided.

Wedding Announcements

Wedding Announcement for Cathleen S. Von Breithaupt and Kelly Wade Wright Jr.

Bride: Cathleen S. Von Breithaupt; Mother: Muriel M. (Sparks) Walker, deceased; Father: William Boone Walker III of Chico, California; High School: Willow Glen High School, graduated in 1974; Further education: San Jose State University, Colorado State University, University of Utah; Current employment: Unicorn Creations Custom Sewing - Owner; Her name after the marriage will be Cathleen S. Wright.

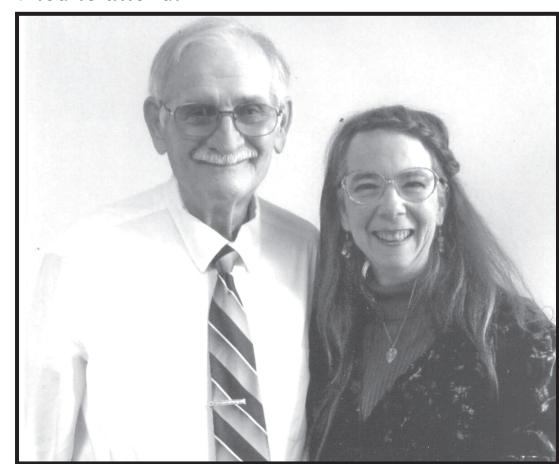
Groom: Kelly Wade Wright Jr.; Mother: Carmen Edwards, deceased; Father: Kelly Wade Wright Sr., deceased; High School attended: Gardina High School, graduated in 1968; Further education: El Camino University; Current employment: retired.

The Wedding will be on May 10, 2014 at 5 p.m. at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day

Saints, 209 Junction Ave., Cave Junction, Ore. with a potluck reception afterwards. The wedding will be performed by Larry Hammersmith. Double ring; Maid of honor: Kandace McClure, Cave Junction, Ore., best friend of Bride; Bridesmaids: Sherron Crowley, San Jose, Calif., sister; Vanessa Jones Lacey, Selma, Ore., best friend of Bride; Flower girl: Kiera Cress; Best man: Allen Cress, Cave Junction, Ore., best friend of groom; Groomsmen/ushers: Elder Lealand Overson, LDS Eugene Mission, residence Pleasant Grove, Utah, Roan McClure, Cave Junction, Ore., Ring bearer: Cameron Beck, Cave Junction, Ore. Honored guests: Willaim B. Walker (father) will walk the bride down the aisle and in April 2014 he turned 93 years old.; Sherroll Mae W. Jennifer Jo Brown, daughter of groom, Rogue River, Ore. The couple will be living at Secret Trailer Park, Cave Junction, Ore. Wedding trip will be

the Groom's surprise.

All friends and family in the Valley are invited to attend.



**Kelly Wade Wright Jr. &
Cathleen S. Von Breithaupt**

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save The Date

May 2

Young Master Gardeners will discover all the "inside" information on seeds at the I.V. Library (209 Palmer St.) Friday, May 2 at 2:30 p.m.

May 3

Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Meeting and Auction will be held Saturday, May 3 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Wild River Brewing and Pizza. Its Derby Day so wear your big hats and come celebrate our Business and Citizen of the year.

May 5

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Town Hall Community meeting on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in the Illinois Valley. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Cave Junction County Building, 102 South Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, Oregon. All County resi-

dents are invited to attend.

May 9

Second Friday Art Walk Illinois River Valley Arts Council www.irvac.com

Free event with art, music, & activities in downtown Cave Junction, 541-218-8501; 5 - 8 p.m. May 9, June 13, July 11 and August 8.

May 10

Saturday, May 10th: Please attend the Monument's 13th annual Community Open House. Free cave tours will be offered from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We request only that you bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore and enjoy the caves - free of charge! The Historic Chateau at Oregon Caves will open on Thursday, May 8th so there will be lodging and dining available. The Chateau will also have live music for Mother's Day weekend, so don't

miss all of the festivities!

May 10

Bridgeview Winery presents "The Bistro at Bridgeview" 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 10. The fundraiser for the 2014 IVHS Safe and Sober Grad Night will include live entertainment, a silent auction and gourmet dinner of pork roast (donated by Taylors), au gratin potatoes (donated by McGrews), green salad and dessert. Vegetarian entrée also available. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 for two, available at IVHS, Taylor's Country Store and First Community Credit Union. Sponsored in part by the Jo. Co. Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee.

May 10

Cave Junction Lions Club Saturday, May 10th will host its annual Mommy's Day Bingo event.

Doors open at 5 p.m. First game at 6 p.m. 50/50 Drawing, Door Prize for Mommys, Spe-

cial game: Last person standing; dobbers for sale, or bring your own. Snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase.

For more information: call Cori at 541-592-4301. IV Senior Center, 520 E. River St. Cave Junction. 50¢ Cards, Half Cash Payout, 15 Game Program.

May 15

There is a Beekeepers Club in the Valley. The informal club has meetings the third Thursday of every month. The meetings are held at various locations throughout the valley. The next meeting is May 15th at 6:30 p.m. We will be meeting at Ron Padgett's bee yard located at 6541 Caves Highway. If you have any interest in keeping bees or would just like some information please plan to attend one of our lively and informative meetings. Come 'bee' with us. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call: Ron Padgett 541-659-0382.

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5 P.M. FRIDAYS