

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

I feel we need to set the record straight in regard to the Indian Hemp Plant, commonly known as Marijuana.

As you know, with the passage of Measure 91 Marijuana is now legal to grow in Oregon for the first time in almost 80 years.

80 years ago before the passage of the Marihuana Tax Act, farmers grew various cultivars of the Indian Hemp Plant (Cannabis Sativa), producing food, fiber, fuel and medicine. Now there are thousands of products which can be made from this most valuable natural resource.

In 1938, Popular Mechanics Magazine did a cover story about

hemp's potential to become the next Billion Dollar Crop. That was in 1938 dollars, so you can just imagine what a hemp crop could be worth in today's market.

There is a lot more to this story. Hemp has been grown for at least 10,000 years. The earliest known relic of industry is a scrap of hemp cloth over 8,000 years old. Hemp is our heritage which we are finally waking up to.

For most of this country's history if someone wanted to plant a crop of hemp they would just get out a bag of seed and plant it. George Washington said "Make the most of the hemp plant. Sow it everywhere for the good of the nation" ("Jack Herer: The Emperor Wears No Clothes")

Now we have a situation where four states have legalized Marijuana. In Oregon Measure 91 passed by nearly 12%, with 847,865 voters in favor of allowing persons over 21 to cultivate four Cannabis plants per household. Suppose 500,000 Oregonians choose to do that, that's 2 million more cannabis plants planted in Oregon, which does not include the hundreds of thousands of plants already being grown for medicine.

With the passage of the Farm Bill In Congress in 2014, states who have existing laws to grow "industrial hemp" will not be harassed by the Federal Government. So you say, "Cool, let's get on with it!" I agree but there are still some obstacles,

this time coming from the Rules Committee in Salem. Their license fees are prohibitive and their rules are overly restrictive. Here's their link: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/MarketAccess/IndHempOAR603-048.pdf>

There are 15 pages of rules covering the growing and handling of hemp seed. Give me a break. Farmers already know how to grow and handle seed. There's more: Not just any hemp seed will do...no, it has to be the low-THC dwarf varieties coming out of Canada. And Canadian law prohibits export of fertile hemp seed to the US. As it happens, that degenerate variety they call Industrial Hemp will yield less than 1/3 as much seed oil as other more robust high-THC varieties. Look at the crops shown in the short 1942 film "Hemp For Victory" for comparison.

THC is supposedly the problem, and was the excuse for hemp prohibition in the first place. That's why they still say the THC levels need to be so low. But wait a minute; legalization now changes everything. THC should now become a non-issue. Remember, Oregon could soon have 2,000,000 home-grown high-THC plants. So why stop farmers from growing the most productive varieties, unless keeping hemp from competing with other major industries was the real motive for hemp prohibition all along!

Remember what George Washington said: Make the most of Hemp for the good of the Nation. Not... MAKE THE MOST RULES AND REGULATIONS!

Hemp was so vital to the early American colonies that they could not have survived if rules like these had been in place. So I think you get the point.

There is so much more to this subject. Hemp can greatly strengthen Oregon's economy and self-sufficiency, but only if we are allowed to grow it without a lot of counter-productive restrictions. If you want to help fix this, call the folks at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and tell your representatives, and the new governor.

Thanks for your consideration,

**Leo Goodman
Cave Junction**

Reader says keep Mercy

My family has had ParaMed Insurance for years, which combines AMR and Mercy Flights services. Our membership came up for renewal, and although another newspaper said the annual cost is as much as \$72.00 - they're wrong. This year is costs \$95.00 for the combined services. Now I read that Dr. Hill, Commissioner Cheryl Walker's husband, has decided that Oregon Lifeguard, the new air ambulance service competing with

Mercy Flights, is to be contacted "first". Great - where does that leave my family? I hope the two agencies can work out some kind of reciprocal agreement. Personally, I wonder why a new air ambulance service would even come here because there's barely enough business for Mercy Flights. I've been told that MF averages about 60 flights or less annually. You inject OL and wonder how can it possibly be profitable then for either agency? Does anyone care that MF's personnel are stationed at the Medford airport with their helicopter ready to go in minutes, while OL's personnel are housed miles from their helicopter at the Grants Pass Airport? Does anyone care that it ought to take OL a long time to get familiar with the specific landing zones used, roads, canyons, power lines, etc. within both counties? Doesn't anyone care that MF's flight records are far superior to OL's? That MF's accident rate is almost zero over the last 30 years compared to that of OL's? Well, we care! Why has Dr. Hill already decided to "vet" Oregon Lifeguard? How could OL possibly be thoroughly familiarized with the two counties so quickly? Kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it? As a citizen living in the Illinois Valley, I agree with Chief Hoke of the IVFD and their Board of Directors: Call Mercy Flights first. I hope and pray they keep it that way!

**Marilyn Arnold
O'Brien**

Guns are not for crazy people: by Glenn Mollette

Crazy people should never have guns, knives or anything that could potentially harm another. A crazy person will find a way to inflict injury or cause death.

Eddie Ray Routh who murdered American hero Chris Kyle and Kyle's friend Chad Littlefield at a firing range proves my point again.

This is one of the tragedies of the year. Two intelligent, knowledgeable men, one who had survived horrific Middle East combat situations, were snuffed out of this life by a crazy man like

Routh.

About an hour and a half into the drive, Chris Kyle was sitting in the driver's seat and he sent a text to Chad Littlefield who was sitting right next to him. He texts, "This dude is straight-up nuts," according to defense attorney Tim Moore from the Texas trial that is occurring. Moore said, "Chad Littlefield texts Chris Kyle back, "He's right behind me Watch my six," (military lingo for watch my back). From this we have some insight into what Kris Kyle was thinking at the time.

According to Erath County District Attorney Alan Nash, Routh used two guns and shot Kyle five times in the back and side and once in the side of the head, using a 45-caliber pistol. He then shot Littlefield with a 9 mm pistol, four times in the back, once in the hand, once in the face and once in the head. A different 45-caliber pistol with all it's rounds fired was found on the ground near Kyle's head, "Kyle had shot all the bullets in his gun when he was shot in the back," said Nash, referring to the fact Kyle had

just fired at a target.

I own guns. I believe in the right to bear arms. I would shoot anyone trying to break into my house and harm my family. However, I do not want to be around crazy people with guns. Guns are never bad. People holding the guns make them either safe or deadly.

Do not try to rehabilitate a sick person by handing that person a gun or a knife or anything that might give them a window of opportunity to hurt themselves, you or anyone else. Mentally sick

people can be helped many ways but giving them guns, knives or bombs is never the answer.

I saw the movie American Sniper. I believe Kris Kyle is a hero. I believe his death is a tragedy. The sad end of his life reminds us that we cannot help everybody. Some people can only be helped by medical professionals over a long period of time and then not always.

Author's note - Thank you to CNN, Ralph Ellis, Jason Morris and Jason

Hanna authors of the article, "Lawyer: American Sniper called accused man 'straight up nuts' in text February 11, 2015".

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a syndicated American columnist and author. He is read in all 50 states. The views expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily representative of any other group, organization or this publication.

Like his facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GlennMollette>.

Obituaries

Anna Mae Swett, age 67, of Cave Junction, died Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 at her home.

Anna was born Dec. 6, 1947 in Forks of Salmon, California to Carl & Josephine Clewell. She moved with her family to Crescent City, California in 1947 where she was raised and attended school at Del Norte High School. In 1988 she moved to Cave Junction, Oregon and in 1993, at her home in Cave Junction, she married Forest Gale Swett. Anna owned and operated Anna's Attic Treasures in Cave Junction since 1988 where she was active in the sales and auctions.

Her favorite pastimes included karaoke at local establishments, slots at Crescent City and lottery winning slots.

Survivors include her daughter, Stacie; four brothers, "Charlie" Charles, "Jody" Joseph, "Ronnie" Ronald and "Bobby" Robert; and a sister, Evie.

Preceding her in death were three brothers, "Butch" Carl, "Billy" William and "Brian" Clarence and an infant sister, Laura.

At Anna's request, no services are planned. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to Rogue Valley Humane Society, PO Box 951, Grants Pass Oregon 97528.

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

June Lance Hall, age 83, of O'Brien, died Monday, Feb. 16, 2015 at Three Rivers Medical Center.

June was born June 6, 1931 in Boston Heights, Ohio to William & Gladys Lance. On Feb. 28, 1948 in Hunters, Washington she married Robert Hall. For 40 years she worked as a waitress. She also worked as a cook at San Diego public schools. In 1991 she moved from San Diego to O'Brien.

June was a member of the Illinois Valley Lions Club for over six years and TOPS of Grants Pass for over 20 years.

Her hobbies included crocheting, sewing, and reading.

Survivors include her husband of 67 years, Bob Hall of O'Brien, Oregon; a daughter, Lora Knight of Dickinson, North Dakota; a son, Theodore Hall of O'Brien, Oregon; a sister, Lila

Sanders of Clearwater, Florida; 21 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two daughters, Janice Morgado and Cheryl Hall; and three sons, Dean Hall, Steven Hall, and Robert Hall II.

A memorial gathering will be at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015 at St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church.

Remembrances may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org.

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

Jean M. McKinnon, age 85, of Cave Junction, died Monday, Feb. 16, 2015 at her home.

Private family services will be held. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save The Date

For more listings go to www.ivcalendar.org

Feb. 25

Depression Recovery Program Free Orientation, Adventist Church, 265 Old Stage Rd., CJ, 7 p.m.

March 1

Banana Belt Photography Club of the Illinois Valley meets the FIRST Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. at the Southern Oregon Guild and Friends in Kerby. (Kerby Belt Building on the art guild side.)

First two meetings are free to guests.

March 2

Pound off Program starts on Mon. & Thurs, 4 - 5 p.m., 6 week weight loss program at Healthy U, 535 E. River St., CJ www.healthyu-center.org, 541-592-4888.

March 7

SOS Run For The Law, A Community United! 10k Run or 5k Walk/Run & Kid's Dash For details and registration see this page: <http://securingoursafety.org/run-for-the-law-a-county-united/>

For more information contact: Holly Lidey (541) 660-8186.

March 21

Illinois Valley Little League, Chili Feed & Cook-off at the County Building in Downtown CJ from 4:30 - 8 p.m., Entertainment by Jay Barley Band, Guppy, Due Paul & Maureen as well as other surprise guests, Live/Silent Auction, Fun evening for whole family.

Continuing

*Nomination Forms for Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, Citizen of the Year are available at the Visitor Center. Please contact Dulcie Moore at 541-592-3326 for more information.

*The CJ Substation is now open as follows: Mon., Wed. & Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tues. and Thurs. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The phone number at the Sub is 592-5151. We are looking for more volunteers to expand the hours and applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at the sub.

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DEADLINES: News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcements and Letters **4 P.M. FRIDAYS**