

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

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

## Reader does not like aviation noise at airport

When I read the front page article of the April 13, 2016 edition of the *Illinois Valley News* regarding Erickson Aviation and their latest volunteer efforts to disturb the peace of our valley, I began to wonder if I was standing knee deep in steer manure out in Les Schwab country.

What kind of newspaper reporter would claim authorship of an article that was clearly contrived by the I.V. Airport manager to disseminate misinformation for the sake of dividing a community over such a pivotal point in our valley's history? And further more, a healthy dose of tsk-tsk to the editor for allowing such obvious disinformation to pass beyond his desk.

If either of the above mentioned mercenaries were out of doors between March 31 and the print date of said newspaper, they would know that Erickson's S64 Skycrane has flown over the Valley and into the airport 10 times in that 14 day period. In fact, there were six documented training sessions over the residential airspace of the Valley between April 3rd and April 9th, not 2 as was stated by Miss Hoyle.

The airport manager stated in the third paragraph that he has "zero leverage" over the flying patterns, times, etc. due to the lack of a lease at the airport between Erickson and the county. If you visit the Federal Aviation Administration website you will find under the heading of Aircraft Noise Levels that the truth is "Airports are responsible

for their noise impact on the communities they occupy. These noise impacts include noise from arrivals and departures, as well as noise from aircraft in a flight path within the immediate vicinity of the airport. Most airports have staff that respond to airport noise issues, or you can ask for the airport manager."

I have filed a complaint with the airport manager and he has failed to respond so I have brought the case to the attention of the FAA (FAAHotline@faa.gov), as was recommended by Commissioner Hare in response to a formal complaint filed with the county at the weekly business session of the board of county commissioners. As there has been documented video footage of Erickson touching down at the I.V. Airport, the airport manager is responsible for their behavior in our skies. This inaction puts the airport at risk of being in violation of their grant assurances that they receive every year from the FAA. This blatant neglect of public duty could potentially create a situation where Josephine County would be responsible for repayment of millions of dollars of grant monies. If there is in fact a

"hostile environment" at the I.V. airport, it is being created by first and foremost, the most corrupt group of county commissioners possibly in the history of our county. Second to them is the collaborative effort between Erickson Aviation and the Josephine County Airports Manager, both rooted in Jackson County, to "spank" the Illinois Valley residents with unprecedented helicopter operations in our residential airspace outside of fire season.

Please consider joining your fellow citizens on Monday, April 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Smokejumper Base Museum for the next airport advisory board meeting to witness the truth of the matter at hand.

## Sunrise Ocean Cave Junction

### PERS is the word

It is time for those of us in rural Oregon to take responsibility and charge of our needs. We have stood by and waited too long for Salem to take notice of the difference in rural and urban communities. They have continuously ignored our pleas to help stabilize funding in counties dependent upon our natural resources for county

funding, yet they push for clean energy reforms which are not proven to be cost effective, and will roll out by 2025. To add insult to injury, they classify them as emergency measures, to take effect immediately, and push them through the short legislation session. Do they not understand the word emergency? Where was the \$2 bill that would have given rural counties the ability to provide basic public safety services to its citizens, and saved nearby jurisdictions from sacrificing their own public safety concerns and dollars? Why did we not see the PERS financial time bomb addressed? This will financially affect every city, county, state agency (and yes that means taxpayer), as they scramble to fund

PERS liabilities now, not 2025. Could it be because their own pocketbooks are at stake? It is time for a grassroots movement to bring local control back to local communities. We can begin by reclaiming 50 percent of lottery funds being taken from our local counties currently going into a "honeypot" in Salem. Go to [www.lotterylocalcontrol.com](http://www.lotterylocalcontrol.com) to learn how much money that means to your county. Then download the e-petition, sign and send it to the Lottery Local Control Committee. We need to show Salem that rural Oregon has a voice, and demand it be heard! It is time.

**Valerie Lovelace Grants Pass**



# Obituaries

**Hilma J. Michel, 74**, of Cave Junction, passed away Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center.

Hilma was born a twin on Oct. 8, 1941 in Carpinteria, Calif. She met Sam Michel while living in Carpinteria. They married in 1968 and moved to Cave Junction where they owned and operated Sam Michel Excavating while raising three children.

She was a member of the Eagles and Elks lodges.

Her hobbies including vegetable and flower gardening; camping; baking and being with family. She especially loved being a grandma, spoiling her grandkids and attending their sporting events.

Hilma is survived by her husband, Sam Michel of Cave Junction; three children, Sherry (Brian) D'Arpino of Grants Pass, Duke (Kathy) Jackson of Salem, and Lota Berard of Portland; a sister, Wilma Martin of Reno, Nevada; and three grandchildren, twin granddaughters, Kerissa and Venessa D'Arpino both of Corvallis, Ore.; and grandson, Cory D'Arpino of Grants Pass.

She was preceded in death by her son, Don Jackson at age 6 months; a brother, Wendell "Wendy" Kerley at age 58 in 2004; her father, Harry Kerley; and her mother, Wilma Gregory.

She was sweet, loving, and kind. She will be missed.

A graveside service was held Sunday, April 17, 2016 at Laurel Cemetery. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors were in charge of arrangements.

## Sandra Kubalek Schmidt,

75, wife, mother, homemaker, small-business owner and lifelong student, died March 24 at her home outside Cave Junction, surrounded by her family.

Born in Chicago, Ill. Sandra moved with her family to Medford, Ore., in 1950 and graduated from Medford High School in 1957. She attended college in Colorado and Oregon before marrying Robert Schmidt in December 1962 in Medford.

Sandra was passionate about education – for her children and herself. Her college major was English education, but she also had a natural aptitude for math and engineering. She loved literature and drama, and her favorite college job was working on the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

At the age of 56, she returned to college at Regis University in Denver, completing her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education in 1997. Sandra looked for opportunities to learn in every place she lived.

Over more than 53 years of marriage, Sandra and Robert moved across the country, including Hawaii, during Robert's service as an officer in the U.S. Navy. While he worked for the Bureau of Land Management they lived in Calif., Ala., N.M., Va. and Colo. In 2011 they returned to Ore. and settled in the Illinois Valley.

Sandra mastered a wide range of needlework skills during her life, including knitting, crochet, needlepoint, cross stitch and embroidery. Her passion for needlework and joy found helping people led to the creation of

the Yarncrafter Shop, where she taught needle arts and provided support on projects large and small.

Sandra opened the business in Montrose, Colo., in 1983 and moved it to Lakewood, Colo., in 1989. The business lapsed following the move to Ore., but before her death she was excited about plans to reopen in Cave Junction.

Sandra loved animals, appreciated music, great stories and preparing homemade meals for her family – values she instilled in her children. Living in the Illinois Valley, Sandra embraced her love for gardening and the outdoors, joining the local grange and garden club, participating in Oregon State University (OSU) Extension classes and taking part in the OSU Extension Land Steward program.

She never met a stranger, was willing to talk with anyone and had a kind heart. Sandra would go out of her way to help a friend, was willing to listen or provide great advice. Her strength, work ethic and resiliency were amazing and she lived a full life up to the end.

Sandra is preceded in death by her father Milo Kubalek, brother James Kubalek and mother Florence Kubalek Fotter. She is survived by her husband Robert of Cave Junction, daughter Theresa (Michael) Jones of Mechanicville, N. Y.; son, Robert Schmidt of Lakebay, Washington; daughter, Tamara Schmidt of Lakeview, Ore.; daughter, Tiffany Schmidt of Medford; sister, Carole (Patrick) Cumerford of Bath, N. Y.; and two grandsons.

A funeral mass is planned for April 21 at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church, 407 W. River St. in Cave Junction.

Internment is scheduled for April 22 at 11 a.m. at Siskiyou Memorial Park, 2100 Siskiyou Blvd. in Medford.



**Sandra Kubalek Schmidt**

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

# Save The Date

## April 22 & 29

Rogue Community College offers "RCC Preview Days" 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 22 and 29. Students are invited to tour campus, attend a financial aid registration lab, and meet members of student government. Visit [recruitment@rogucecc.edu](mailto:recruitment@rogucecc.edu) for more information.

## April 22

Cave Junction Farmers Market runs Fridays starting April 22, from 4 to 7 p.m. through September 23. The market offers local farmers, food producers, artisans and venue to sell the fruits of their labor. You can even get your bike repaired.

The market is located in the parking lot of Jubilee Park at 307 S. Junction Ave., adjacent to the playground.

The market takes Oregon Trail SNAP and debit cards.

For more information contact Sarah Kuhn at 541-415-4419

## April 22

Earth Day Clean Up at Reeves Creek, Proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern ACEC. This high-priority location

is habitat for the federally endangered Cook's Lomatium, but unfortunately has become a favorite dump site. Working with the Medford BLM, we will clean up this location before they close the road to prevent further access. - Gloves and trash bags provided. Please wear sturdy shoes, - Meeting (and carpool) in Cave Junction at Coffee Heaven 9 a.m.

IVHS boys baseball game: away at St. Mary's High School at 2 p.m.

## April 23

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Assembly and Meeting of Public Record, Selma Community Center, 18255 Redwood Hwy. Selma. Potluck 1p.m. - TOPICS: Law Enforcement / Sheriff's Patrols / Criminal Justice System. Nearly all Commissioner Candidates scheduled to attend, Ret. Sheriff Gilbertson, and sheriff deputy representative. • Law Enforcement District: • Patrols interface with sheriff dep. • Redirect County Budget \$1m reserve \$ for roads to support Illinois Valley and JoCo public safety. • Assembly hearing of facts, vote and recommendations to county commissioners. Contact: Guenter Ambron, 541-592-4124, or email [cmec@cavenet.com](mailto:cmec@cavenet.com), for program and to RSVP.

IVHS girls varsity softball game: home versus Klamath Union at 1 p.m.

## April 23-24

Jo. Co. Master Gardeners™ 2016 Annual Spring Garden Fair. Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plants, trees, shrubs and vendors. Free admission. No animals, please. [www.jocomastergardeners.com](http://www.jocomastergardeners.com) OSU Ext. Office: 215 Ringuette St.

## May 7

2016 Illinois Valley Children's Fair and Pet Parade 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Jubilee Park.

Annual Mother's Day Bingo, games start at 6 p.m. at the Cave Junction Senior Center. Cash Payouts 50/50 drawings. .50 3 on papers. Sponsored by the Glenn Morrison American Legion Post 70.

## Continuing

Fire & Emergency Services Career Exploring is open to young men and women from our local schools with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of fire or emergency

services. Fire & EMS Exploring is a hand-on program that exposes young people to fire and emergency services. The most popular career exploring includes firefighter, EMT, paramedic and nursing. Career exploring combines some classroom training with hands-on lessons and you will learn first aid, fire safety, emergency medicine, leadership methods, teamwork and much more. You will develop emergency management skills and physical fitness and have the opportunity to participate in local and national competitions, community events and real firefighting scenarios in a training setting. Call 541-592-2225 to benefit from this college and career readiness program.

\*The C.J. Substation is now open as follows: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The phone number at the Sub is 541-592-5151. We are looking for more volunteers to expand the hours; applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at the Sub Station.

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