

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

Thank you CJ

On Jan. 2, 2017 my husband and I were trying to drive from Grants Pass to Crescent City. It was early evening and snowing heavily. Erroneously we thought that the storm would turn from snow to rain and so we continued toward the coast. By the time we reached your city we realized our mistake. The first motel was dark, so we went on. We tried to pull over into the driveway/parking area/off road area across from the Chevron station. If that motel had had hot water we probably would have left our car stuck off the road and spent the night. Even though we have front wheel drive, we were well

and truly stuck! Thanks to some of your fine, caring, and compassionate adults we were able to get back on the road. Several young men and a young lady worked hard with a borrowed snow shovel to dig us out and give us a push back onto the roadway. We will never know them, or they us, but I want to tell you what "Good Samaritans" they were, how proud you should be of your community members, and how very much we appreciated their help! We finally ran out of the snow at the city limits of Crescent City: 80 miles in 4 hours.....Thank you very much and please, if there is any way to acknowledge their good deed,

please do so.

Sincerely, the older couple in the blue Toyota
Leonore Kilmer Hadlock, Wash.

Plastic and Energize.

Two words keep running through my mind: 'Plastic and Energize.'

The election of the plastic man as president has energized individuals to take action. Women all over the USA, their friends and relatives, are acting on Jan. 21.

There have been increased donations to organizations whose missions are threatened by a slick lying

phony.

The old fashioned method of communication (telephone) is feeling heated wires as increased calls to representatives urge resistance to what Trump and Congress promise.

Many of us are learning how to use Facebook and Twitter so we can respond through social media.

In the Rogue Valley, I am concerned about our environment; we must commit to holding representatives accountable.

So what is happening in the Climate Movement? After years of overlooking social justice and inequality, we are adjusting our patterns of thought. We

are realizing that we should express our empathy and compassion; that we are interdependent, require reciprocity and cooperation. There is no 'magic bullet' that will fix everything. To address the disasters this president and Congress promise we must collaborate in resistance.

Leadership is bubbling up. Find your passion, show up at government meetings, ask questions, speak your mind, and most importantly, get involved!

Louise D Shawkat Ashland

Obituaries

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of **Gary Lee Bickford**, who passed away on Jan. 16, in his home in Vancouver, Wash. Gary was born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1950 where he spent his childhood before moving to Azusa, Calif. where he dazzled in the roller derby rink as a star for the Los Angeles T-birds. He spent his adult life on the golf courses and rivers of Iowa, Oregon and Washington, throwing countless tennis balls for his four-legged best friends and beautifying and restoring the Oregon Caves, Whitman Mission and Fort Vancouver National Parks. When he wasn't in his uniform he most often could be found in his signature attire of Oregon Ducks gear or Tommy Bahama shirt, dreaming of his next vacation with a smile on his face. He was preceded in death by his father, George Bickford. He is survived by his mother, Leona Freel; his daughters Champayne Furber, Carrie Gonzales and LesLee Bickford; grandchildren Lee, Jaden, Blake, EmmaLynne, Marlie, Andren and Henrik; and his brothers Larry and Terry. A memorial will be held at the Pearson Air Museum Tex Rankin Theater at Fort Vancouver, 1115 E 5th Street, Vancouver, WA Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. The family asks that no flowers be sent. Instead, donations can be made to your local Humane Society or animal rescue, or Stand with Standing Rock.

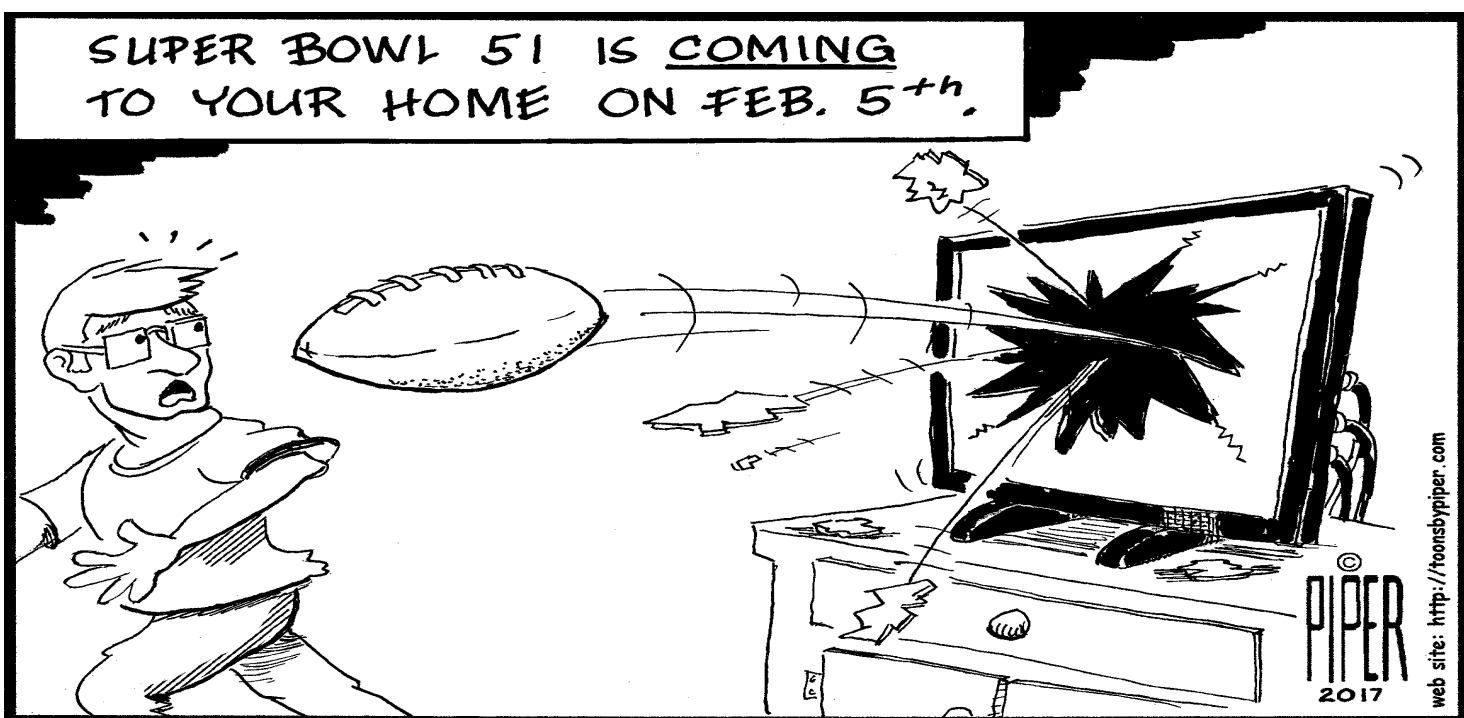


(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Bertha Miller (center) and the congregation from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church awarded a \$250 donation from Thrivent to CJ Patrol after a pizza party at Wild River Brewing and Pizza Co. Monday, Jan. 30.



Gary Bickford



ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Save the date

Feb. 3
IVHS basketball at home for Senior Night vs. St. Mary's: girl' JV 4:30 p.m., girls' varsity 5:30 p.m., boys' JV 5:30 p.m. at LBMS, boys' varsity 7 p.m.

Feb. 4 & 5
Whirlwind 24-Hour Play Festival returns! "Out of Hibernation" February 4-5 at the Takilma Community Building 6 p.m. Saturday: Play-makers arrive to write, direct, and/or perform new, locally-made plays in 24 hours, start to finish. Email mkellyngross@gmail.com for more details or to register (all ages, no experience needed). 6 p.m. Sunday: Audience arrives for showtime. Everyone invited!

Feb. 8
The Cave Junction Lions are meeting at River Valley Restau-

rant in downtown Cave Junction on February 8, 5 p.m. We'll be talking about future fund raising events and sight and hearing applications. For more info please call Harry Johnson at 541-596-2104.

Feb. 11
Child Care Business Class-a FREE introductory class Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. - noon
Illinois Valley Library: 209 Palmer St., Cave Junction, call to register: 541-956-7400. Become a paid child care provider. Learn the legal rules, listen to successful care providers, get business skills and low interest loans. This introductory class is free. Some of the next-step classes such as infant CPR, have fees. Help with costs is available.

Feb. 16
Rogue Valley Food Systems

Network (RVFSV). The new date is Thursday, February 16, from 9:30-noon at the Kerby Belt Building, with additional optional networking from 12-12:30. Lunch will be served, so your RSVP is appreciated, 787-KATE.

This meeting will bring together food farmers, food producers, food access workers, and local providers of services which include meals (such as Head Start and Three Rivers School District.) We will learn what RVFSN has to offer our local food system, hear about recent comprehensive surveys of our farm sector, and share our needs and concerns. Farmers will learn how other regional farmers are using USDA programs to get their local food into school meals, and discuss how to get more access to local foods for local families.

Utilizing the regional knowledge and power of the Rogue Valley

Food Systems Network, the organizational strength of the IVCDO, and the framework of the IV 20/20 Strategic Plan, we will create our own innovative solutions to our own challenges. Please join us.

Continuing
*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store is under NEW MANAGEMENT and is looking for new volunteers. Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citizen to join the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*The C.J. Substation hours are changed. We are now open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays (closed Wednesdays) from 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 Substation.

*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively addressing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665, cjpatrol.org. Monthly meetings are first Thursday at 6 p.m. at Wild River Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy.

* Committee Meeting STATE OF JEFFERSON Josephine County 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Black Forest Restaurant, Grants Pass and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction.

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