

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

Sorry to learn of the death of David L. "Dave" Raymond (Illinois Valley News/Jan. 25). He was a gentleman and a fine deputy with the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, and it was my pleasure and privilege to be associated with him during my time in the Valley.

Recalling him brought many memories of some other outstanding deputies including Fred Layman and Bob Marshall, as well as others, who worked hard for the Valley. Of course that was Way Back When. At the time, the substation was in the county building with a sergeant and several deputies. My, how times have changed.

Bob Rodriguez Clark, Wyo.

To the editor

Watching Fox News Jan. 26, it was reported that the State of Oregon has 36 counties, and 28 counties are sanctuary counties.

Please correct me, if I am wrong? I never saw, on my voters ballot the block where we had the choice to vote, for our county to be sanctuary.

I live in Josephine Co, which is according to the state; we are one of those sanctuary counties. My question is, who determines that my county is a sanctuary county? The commissioners, or do we the voters? If so, Please let me know how they voted.

The population of Oregon is 3.97 million, and according to Pewhispanic.org. There is roughly 130,000-170,000 in Oregon. According to the budget on Oregon's website, the state spends up to \$1 billion a year to provide services and benefits, for those who are here illegally. I don't have a problem with legal immigrants, I wish them well. I can't understand 28 out of 36 counties voted to have sanctuary, without letting the voters know. In Springfield, Oregon the police department declared themselves a sanctuary department. I'd like to know: If I am a citizen of the state, can I claim our city police department a citizen department? With over three quarters of the state in a sanctuary state, can we vote to have the whole state sanctuary? God knows I can use some extra benefits. Just think of it, we would only need one to run the state. Wow, we could save all the money we pay senators, representatives, governors, county commissioners and mayors. Hey! Maybe we would all get free drivers licenses.

In summary I would like to be notified, of such an important vote, where it involves me as a citizen of this state.

Wayne "Spank" De Selma

Reader has ideas

After passage of the state recreational marijuana amendment, local governments are charged

with evolving ways and means of regulation and control to prevent adversely affecting existing residents.

Future public hearings regarding recreational and medicinal marijuana regulations and controls within residential county zones pose challenges and need for preservation of rights and property of current residents, who have pre-existing standing and interest over others.

Those whom own property near new and existing proposed marijuana enterprises pay taxes, a proof that they have prior standing, maintaining first rights over others, particularly if the value of their property is adversely affected or their rights are infringed. Actions by others which negatively affect any aspect of property must be subordinate to protections of pre-existing persons and property without need to defend their values.

Current residents are subject to zoning and development codes, pay taxes, must abide by laws which protect them and their neighbors from unforeseen or unintended consequences, or, suffer criminal or civil penalties. Residential codes are intended to provide a baseline for self-control, consistency in societal peace, and, legal consequences when violated.

Some important issues concerning maintenance and assuring personal rights of current and future property owners, renters and businesses, include:

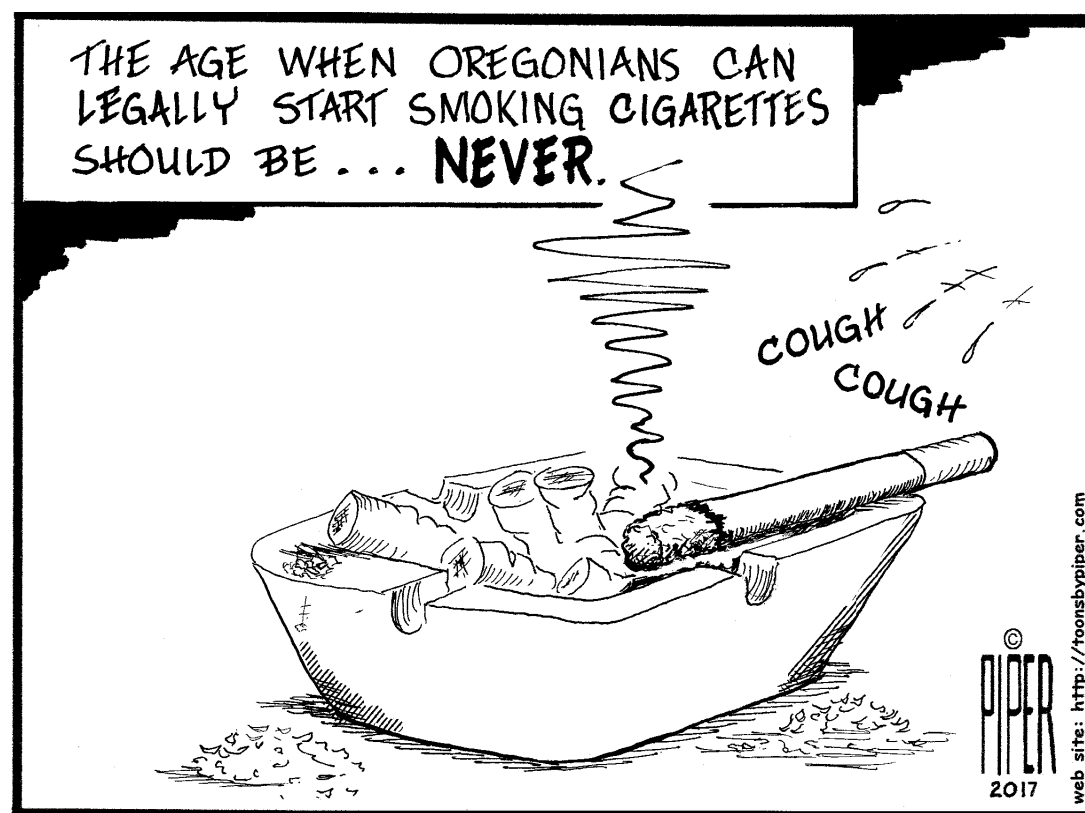
- Reduced real property market values and county tax revenues
- Negative affects of organized gang and cartel intervention
- Negative visual property security fence and gate "compound"

- appearance
 - Increased crime, home invasions, need for additional law enforcement
 - Increase in incarceration infrastructure due to "gateway" drug use
 - Increased need for zoning enforcement manpower and court actions
 - Tax increases as a consequence of licensing and enforcement
 - Increases in personal and property insurance premiums and exclusions
 - Increased road noise, surface street wear, tear and maintenance
 - Ground water pollution from increased pesticides, nitrates & plant residue
 - Lower ground water table, need for more wells, negative arid surroundings
 - Increased wildfire threats resulting from water-starved forests & wildlands
 - Negative odor pollution and need for environmental protection enforcement
 - Stress on electric power grid infrastructure, with higher private power

- costs
 - Marijuana users may suffer schizophrenia, psychosis and depression, according to a recent National Academy of Sciences report several suggested ways and means of marijuana controls needed to protect property and rights of people are:
 - Maintain and protect people's current property zoning, land value and health with pre-approval of existing property owners before implementation
 - Require new and existing marijuana sites be licensed, bonded and insured
 - Require initial and follow-on air and land environmental impact statements
 - Predetermine probable negative affects on property values, roads and water
 - Require individual registered plant RFID chip ID and dissemination history to assure compliance with codes, rules and regulation limitations
 - Require that closed indoor structures manage marijuana odor, light and

- activities so as not to interfere with preexisting quiet & safe environment of neighbors
 - Establish or define current rural industrial or commercial zones away from private property as preferred grow, processing, warehousing and distribution sites
 - Require environmentally sound ways and means to dispose of marijuana waste and post processing residual products
 - Limit ground water use and encourage rain capture and storage as an alternative source of water supply
 - Use marijuana taxes as an offset to prevent property tax increases.
- It is the people's duty and responsibility to protect their preexisting rights and standing in light of the new marijuana law. Please contact the JoCo Commissioners to remind them to respect and maintain the people's rights and property when dealing with this issue.

Robert Thomas Cave Junction



ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Save the date

Feb. 9

The Cave Junction Lions are meeting at River Valley Restaurant in Downtown Cave Junction Feb. 9, 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. 13

A Community and Neighborhood Watch Support Meeting will be held: Monday, Feb., 13, 5-6 p.m. at Wild Rivers Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy., in Cave Junction. This meeting is part of a Support Campaign

effort with all Neighborhood Watch Groups, their leadership, and for anyone that wishes to get help with outreach, in your area, to organize a watch effort. We will have support training on; communications, radios and networking. We share information and resources between all groups with a website and social media. We are also in the process of staging a public assembly, with all Watch representatives, to address crime and Public Safety with our I.V. community. Regular weekly meetings will continue on Mondays at 5 p.m. located at Wild Rivers Pizza, when possible or at another announced location. Contact Guenter - 541-415-1929 for details.

Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14 and 21

Tuesdays 5 -7 p.m. Parenting tools, Learning Fun Nights at Evergreen Elementary School, 520 w. River St. CJ For sign-up call Erica at 541-592-3136

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.

Feb. 18

Spaghetti Dinner at the I.V.

Grange, 3763 Holland Loop Road, Cave Junction, 541-295-7579, \$6, Saturday, Feb. 18 from 1-4 p.m.

March 1 - April 5

Workshop Scheduled for Cave Junction-Living Well with Chronic Pain, March 1 - April 5. Meets once a week on Wednesdays from 2 - 4:30 p.m. Call for more information and registration required. Learn new ways to control pain and improve activity; learn better ways to talk to your doctor and family about your health; solve problems and get the support you need. Sign up Now: Call Living Well Southern Oregon 541-864-9611 or Pre-Register online at www.sohealthyoregon.org.

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 Mon-

days, 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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