

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

The problem with law enforcement in the Illinois Valley is more about lack of trust than lack of funding. The citizens are poor but not cheapskates. Community relations are paramount to getting anything done and like so many communities from Fergusson on down,

the citizens just don't trust the police. For decades (and I have lived here in Takilma for over 45 years) all we ever saw of the Sheriff's Department was when they came into town, generally in a show of force, to bust someone for minor amounts of marijuana: maybe just two or three plants, seedlings in a green house, and an excuse to search their home or even seize their entire property.

Federal drug enforcement funds flowed like beer at a garden party and the Josephine County Sheriff's Office quaffed it down. Local prosecutors filled jail beds and dished out prison terms and now they are asking for more money for prosecutors and jail beds. What will the Sheriff's Office do if next year Jeff Sessions wants to crack down on recreational marijuana? Will the bond levy, we are asked to support be used to wreck our friends and neighbor's lives again?

Somehow our needs never are protected by the Sheriff's Office. As recently as last October 6th reported

gunshots in the vicinity of the Dome School in Takilma forced immediate lockdown an evacuation. 911 was called and it took two and a quarter hours for the police (a Marine Deputy and a Forest Service cop) to finally make it to the scene. They rummaged around couldn't find a gun or shooter and soon left without even filing a report. Everyone said, "What do you expect? This is Takilma," and promptly voted "no" a month later on the soon to be defeated levy.

What the Illinois Valley needs is the presence of two police officers, STATIONED IN CAVE JUNCTION, 24/7 and patrolling the streets like real cops do to protect the citizens and property. The crime wave will stop and the Illinois Valley will have emergency responders available in 10 to 15 minutes. Tell us what it costs and we'll get the money. If the SO really wants our support then they must

tell the community what it will cost to protect us here (and disavow the tactics of the past) and together we will work to make it happen.

Robert Hirling
Cave Junction

Dear editor,

As the framers knew when they attempted to guarantee us freedom of the press, citizens need information to check the powers of government. Vladimir Putin knows this too, so he seized control of Russian news media and eliminated critical reporters along with opposition figures. Trump has praised Putin for his resulting "popularity." He also has spent much of his energy trying to bolster and exaggerate his own popularity.

So it's not surprising that Trump has escalated the war on the media. The information the media provides that is not flattering to Trump is "fake news," and journalists are "the enemy of the people." Similarly, he tries to discredit all traditional sources of information that

might limit his power: the intelligence community with their "ridiculous" reports on Russian influencing our election, the "so-called" judges that find his actions unconstitutional, the scientists whose findings, or "hoaxes," might limit his power to steer more money toward the corporate polluters who support him, the "liberal elite" historians and scholars who point out that his actions parallel those of autocrats throughout history.

With so much discredited, where can we get our information? Trump repeatedly says, "Believe me." To have a confirmed, serial liar as our primary source of information would be a serious threat to our democracy, especially someone who keeps saying the country is a mess that only he can fix. Meanwhile, polls show growing admiration for Putin among Republicans. Without information, we could easily become as powerless as the Russian people.

Jack Dwyer
Selma

Obituaries

John H. Cunningham, 89, of Cave Junction, died Feb. 21, 2017 at his home.

John was born Aug. 15, 1927 in Bend, Ore. to Grover and Gladys Cunningham. He grew up in the Sisters, Bend and Tumalo, Ore. area, later moving into the Medford area. During the Korean War, he served in the United States Army as a Combat Medic. John came to Cave Junction in 1959 as the head saw filer for Rough & Ready Lumber Company and then continued his career in the lumber industry at various mills in Oregon until his retirement in 1984.

John was a member of the Eagles Lodge in Lakeview, Ore.; a member of the Oregon Sawfilers Association; and also a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the latter of which he served as commander two times.

During his life, he also served as a Cub Scout Leader and had been a square dance caller. He enjoyed

hunting, fishing and gardening.

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Betty Cunningham of Cave Junction and three sons, Richard Cunningham of Portland, Ore., Edward Cunningham of Cave Junction and William Hoffman of Eagle Point; two daughters, Betsy Staten of Eagle Point and Sandy Miller of Medford; 17 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by two sisters; Mildred Couch of Bend, Ore. and Mary Deach of Hood River, Ore., and by two children: Robert and Dennis Cunningham.

Remembrance may be made to the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, 3 Columbus Circle 15th floor, New York, NY 10019.

A committal service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at Eagle Point National Cemetery. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Please visit the obituary and

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



John Cunningham



ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM

541-592-4110

Save the date

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.sohealthyorogon.org.

March 3

Alliance Community Garden Pea Workshop. Friday, March 3, 1 p.m. there will be a pea planting workshop at the Alliance Community Gardens (behind the Safe-house Alliance and DMV). The I.V. Garden Club tends two beds in the Community Gardens and donates the produce to the local food banks. There will be a planting demonstration in those beds along with instructions for growing your own peas. There will also be a free seed give-away while supplies last. Stop by and see what the Community Gardens are all about. This year there will be weekly gardening instruction available from The Master Gardeners and the I.V. Garden Club to help you learn how to garden and grow your own food. Garden beds are available through the Community Garden Coordinator Laura Kupac at 425-445-5337.

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.

March 4

IVHS 2017 All night safe and sober graduation party fundraising event: Saturday, March 4, Serving breakfast at the I.V. Senior Center.

March 11

IV Little League's Annual Chili Feed & Cook-Off, with Silent Auction and Live dessert auction. Live band the Holland Loopers, fun for the entire family Saturday, March 11 at the County Building from 5:30-8 p.m.

March 11

Ready-Set-Go! Cave Junction. Be prepared for an emergency by attending free public meeting. CJ Library, Saturday, March 11, 4-5 p.m. Learn what to have in your "go-bag"; shelter in-place or leave - necessary home supplies; evacuation assembly locations; and more. Meeting conducted by IVFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members.

March 17

Chili Cook-Off, Cave Junction Farmers' Market and KXCJ Benefit Dinner Friday, March 17, 6 p.m. Kerby Belt Building, 24353 Redwood Highway, Kerby

The Chili Cook-Off is a test of the best chili as tasted by the people. For a donation of \$5-20, you may eat all the chili and cornbread you want and vote for your favorites. Local wines and craft beers will be sold. Entertainment will include Irish tunes played by the Oregon Woodpickers and folk music by Southbound. Come party

on St. Patrick's Day and support our Farmers Market and Local Radio Station, KXCJ. If you would like to enter chili in the contest or volunteer, please call Sarah at 541-415-0434 or email to cjfarmersmarketinfo@gmail.com.

March 18

Ready-Set-Go! Selma. Be prepared for an emergency by attending one of these free public meetings. Selma Fire Station, Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Learn what to have in your "go-bag"; shelter in-place or leave - necessary home supplies; evacuation assembly locations; and more. Meetings conducted by IVFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members.

March 23

Local Legends, Thursday, March 23, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS), A free community event highlighting: Dinner provided by LBMS, displays by LBMS students about local loved ones who've died, IVHS students and community members and presentation: "Coping with Loss through Support, Education, Music and Movement." Anyone is invited to put together a display honoring his or her lost loved one. Displays will be shown on school cafeteria tables and are limited to the width of a three-fold with a small area in front where a notebook, memory box, and/or some small items can be placed. Contact Nicole at Healthy U to participate at 541-592-4888.

March 29

The Grants Pass Vet Center

will be participating in a national celebration to welcome home Vietnam Veterans. The event will be held at the same venue as last year. Riverside Park Trevillian Pavillion 304 SE Park Street, Grants Pass, OR 97527. The event will start at 10 a.m. and conclude around 2 p.m. A BBQ lunch, service providers and guest speakers will be at the event. Please come and show your support. All are welcome!

March 31 & April 1

IVHS 2017 All night safe and sober graduation party fundraising event: Bagging Groceries at Shop Smart from 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 31 and from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday, April 1

April 1 & 2

Josephine County Fairgrounds and Event Center Home and Recreation Show for 2017. Spring is here, and that means two things... Home Improvements and Outdoor Recreation! The Home and Recreation Show at the Josephine County Fairgrounds and Event Center in Grants Pass has something for everyone! Products and services for your home, inside and out, plus RVs, boats and more to help you enjoy the great outdoors. Admission is FREE, so bring the whole family and enjoy all the demonstrations. Gates open Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m. -5 p.m. and Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Special demonstrations daily Saturday and Sunday by the Southern Oregon Fly Tiers and other vendors.

April 8

Ready-Set-Go! O'Brien. Be prepared for an emergency by at-

tending one of these free public meetings. O'Brien Fire Station, Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Learn what to have in your "go-bag"; shelter in-place or leave - necessary home supplies; evacuation assembly locations; and more. Meetings conducted by IVFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members.

Continuing

*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store: Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citizen to volunteer at the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*The C.J. Substation hours are changed. Open hours are now Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The phone number for the substation is 541-592-5151.

Volunteers are needed to expand support service hours to the public. Applications are available at the substation or on-line at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer%20Application.Mar%202014.pdf>.

*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.

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AP

AP EXCHANGE

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