

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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 says we need IVFD

I note Raymond Smith's letter in the March 22 edition with interest. I must agree with him about the need for trust. Personally, I have yet to make a decision on the law enforcement levy.

However, I have made a decision concerning a very important levy that will be on I.V. voter's ballots in the May 16 election. I am referring to the Illinois Valley Fire District Levy. I have attended many of the District's Board Meetings and I have observed a group that is very frugal with the taxpayer's money. I

have seen the District successfully seek and receive grants of funds, and when the opportunity arises, acquire used equipment and refurbish it for use in the course of dealing with emergencies. These are the people who are rescuing us from house fires, wildland fires and auto accidents. We really, really need I.V. Fire, both its paid staff and its volunteers. The District needs additional staff and volunteers with good equipment and specialized training to save us and our properties. Last year the District responded to 1374 calls.

Through innovative and creative work, I.V. Fire has managed to improve the effectiveness of its fire protection; such that the fire insurance industry recognized the improved effectiveness and reduced fire insurance rates for most of the homes and business in the Valley. In most instances the savings from the reduced fire insurance cost will more than pay a home owners cost of the levy.

In order to insure that this effectiveness is maintained and the insurance industry continues the lower insurance costs, I.V. Fire needs the ability to add four new firefighter/emergency medical technicians. This will allow I.V. Fire to respond to your emergency situation more quickly if you have

a fire or medical emergency in the middle of the night. These four firefighters/emergency medical technicians will allow manning the station 24-hours a day, thus providing an immediate response rather than having to wait for staff and/or volunteers to come from their homes in the middle of the night before starting out to your emergency.

The levy is for 0.50 cents, which in reality is only a .25 cent increase because the -.25 cent levy passed five years ago is expiring this year. That levy was for fire equipment and that is exactly where the District spent the money. This is money that will be spent only for your benefit since the I.V. Fire District is totally separate from Josephine County and its Board of Commissioners.

The I.V. Fire District is one governmental organization we can trust. Therefore, please support the I.V. Fire levy when you are filling out your ballot.

Sincerely,

Bob Schmidt
Cave Junction

The way I see it

Since the seventies there has been discussion regarding the need for an overhaul of healthcare. After no concrete evidence of

anything moving forward towards this goal a president came along and handed Congress a new plan giving that governing body a chance to fix any perceived errors. With the president being a democrat or someone else to hate for some reason, the GOP arm of Congress went about fighting it altogether. Now for seven years they have had the opportunity to reach out to the other side of the aisle and work together to forge it into what everyone can support. In those seven years they did nothing to improve the president's bill nor work on a replacement. The opportunity was there to use bi-partisanship to improve and make strong changes while strengthening compromise between parties. Suddenly they found themselves in a position to repeal the law, still not having a viable alternate plan in hand. Scrambling to defeat the ACA while empty handed they have found themselves again in the same position they were in seven years ago; to cross the aisle and work for a mutually agreed upon alternative if needed. Let's not blow it this time. If it ain't broke don't fix it. If it is broke repair it.

On another note it seems a little strange to me that congressional republicans are blaming the Dems for refusing to back the GOP agenda when

they have been doing the same to the Dems for the past eight years. Where do they think it was learned?

Mark Dillinger
Cave Junction

Reader says gives thanks

The IVSWCD would like to thank the community for coming out and supporting the 2017 Riparian Plant Sale! We had a successful day putting over 2000 plants into our Watershed!! We would like to thank Greg and Barbara from Althouse Nursery who not only provided the plants for our event but went above and beyond by staying the entire day and making sure the inventory stayed stocked! Thank you to all of our Board Members and volunteers who worked so hard bringing this event to our community. To Shop Smart thank you for providing the paper bags. To Plant Oregon thank you for the last minute assistance!

It is always a great day when you see your community come out to support you! Thank you!

Amy Britt
Office Manager
Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District
Illinois Valley Watershed Council

Obituaries

Mary "Mollie" Gillyatt, 89, of O'Brien, died March 18, 2017 at homes.

Services are pending. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

William R. "Dickie" Davis Jr, 56, of Kerby, died Friday, March 17, 2017 at Royale Gardens Health & Rehabilitation Center.

He was born Nov. 1, 1960 in Grants Pass. He lived in the Illinois Valley all his life where he grew up and attended schools. Over

the years, he worked for Chevron, Martin's Dairy, and Q Bar X, but helping others as a mechanic was his passion.

His hobbies included working on cars, riding and working on dirt bikes, wood cutting, shooting guns, and hunting.

Survivors include his companion, Johnna Lynn LaRue of Kerby; three sons, William Davis III, Kenneth Davis and Robbert Davis all of Kerby; a daughter, Kathrin Davis of Selma; three sisters, Cindy Davis of Grants Pass and Patricia Patterson

and Debra Burdette both of O'Brien; a brother, Randy Davis of Cave Junction; ten grandchildren; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A funeral services were Friday, March 24, 2017 at Hull & Hull Chapel. Interment followed at Deer Creek Cemetery in Selma.

Please visit the obituary and sign the family guest book at www.since1928hull.com.

Marjorie L. Layton
Sept. 12, 1929 - March 18, 2017

Marjorie died peacefully

on March 18, at her home at the age of 87.

She was born in Medford, and lived in the little Applegate and Prospect areas as a young girl.

She married Michael McBriety I in 1947. Soon after that, Michael became a surveyor/road builder for the Bureau of Public Roads, which took them and the family to the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, California, and all over Oregon.

Marge was a very adventurous woman who enjoyed traveling and seeing

new places. In the mid-60s they settled in Grants Pass.

Mike died in 1981 during a long-awaited vacation.

Marjorie married her second husband, John G. Layton, in 1994 in Reno. He was a long-haul truck driver, and Marge not only rode with him, but then became a truck driver herself. After they retired, John died in 2008.

Marjorie was independent and enjoyed helping others, and camping, hunting and fishing. She will be missed greatly by all of her friends at the Josephine

County Senior Meal Site in Merlin, her sister and brother-in-law, Lloyd and Bonnie Mann, and her three children, Michael D McBriety II, Linda McBriety Engelnhorn, and Shannon D. McBriety Wright, as well as other friends and relatives throughout the Rogue and Illinois Valleys.

A service was held at the Hillcrest Mausoleum at Hillcrest Memorial Park, 945 NE Hillcrest Drive, Grants Pass, OR on March 24, 2017 at 10 a.m.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date

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

Holland Hills BLM Road and Woods Spring Cleanup. Saturday, April 1 at 10 a.m. Meet at bottom of Trefethen Road. Work day to remove trash from a major dumpsite and an abandoned squatter's camp. BBQ to follow at 5 p.m. Local beef and veggie burgers. Side dishes welcome. If you can bring a pickup or trailer for a dump-run please call. Donations for dump fees and food very welcome. Spearheaded by Talking Woods Family Woodland. Can Jo'el at 541-592-9254 to RSVP or for more information.

April 1

30th Anniversary Celebration Banquet Saturday, April 1, 2017 Illinois Valley High School, Cave

Junction. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Dinner served at 6 p.m. Price: \$30 each, includes one raffle ticket. Catered by Paisano's Italian Kitchen Limited seating, get your tickets early. For tickets call 541-761-0063 or 541-415-0770, or you can stop by the Pregnancy Center at 319 S. Redwood Hwy, Cave Junction (across from Shop Smart).

Lots of raffle items available. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$12.

You could win a car, dinners, Family Photo Shoot, New Tires, gift certificates...many items.

All proceeds will go to support the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley.

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 3

Anxiety and Depression Pro-

gram in Fellowship Hall at Seventh-day Adventist Church, 265 Old Stage Rd. in Cave Junction, Mondays at 6 p.m. Call Kathy for more information at 541-291-7016.

April 8

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

April 15

I.V. Emergency Prepare Fair, Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at I.V. High School. Let the experts teach you how to prepare for a disaster. Booths, presentations, planning tools, kids' activities, concession stand open and. First 300 families get a free tote bag full of emergency supplies. Sponsored by I.V. Fire District, IVCD & CERT. Call 541-294-1598, email IVPrepareFair@yahoo.com or visit Facebook page at IVPrepareFair.

April 29 & 30

The 2017 Spring Fling Art and Garden Show will be held on April 29 & 30 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. Featured are a variety of vendors with plants, art, crafts and food in addition to educational exhib-

its. Enjoy a fun community event that benefits our Josephine County Fairgrounds. For vendor information, call Event Coordinator Sherry Young 541-778-5186. Admission is free!

April 29

IVHS Safe and Sober Graduation Party Fundraising event: Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fun Run/Walk/Bike To a New Adventure at Lake Selmac

May 6

Illinois Valley Children's Fair & Pet Parade Saturday, May 6 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jubilee Park Free activities, resources, hot dogs, snacks, drinks and prizes.

Pet Parade registration starts at 10 a.m. Parade starts at 11:30 a.m.

May 12

IVHS Safe and Sober Graduation Party Fundraising event: Friday, May 12, 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. "Show your Spirit; paint the night Red and White" Dinner and Silent and Live Auction at the Selma Center.

May 21

IVHS Safe and Sober Graduation Party Fundraising event: Sunday, May 21 at 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Cave Junction Car wash.

Continuing

*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store: Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citi-

zen 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.

* 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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