

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

Dear Editor:

Most of Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve is located twenty miles outside of the City of Cave Junction high in the Siskiyou Mountains.

A small part of the park is located in Cave Junction and houses the Illinois Valley Visitor Center (Center). This Center is operated by the National Park Service (NPS) and a number of partners and cooperators including the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. It enables visitors and community members to find information about this area all under one roof. It is an effective arrangement and Oregon Caves is honored to provide this opportunity.

The NPS is committed to continuing this relationship in the long term, but managing locations separated by twenty miles is challenging. We rely on and partner with the Josephine County Sheriff's Department to

assist with the security at the Center. 2016 was a particularly challenging year in this regard. Both the NPS and County had limited personnel to respond to incidents in Cave Junction. In 2016, the Center was broken into and/or vandalized on seven separate occasions. The damage totaled over ten thousand dollars, which put a strain on our budget. That amount of money can pay for the salary of a cave guide during the busy part of the summer season. One less cave guide results in a significant decrease in the amount of tours we can offer and also increases wait times for the tours we can offer.

It is our hope that the County Sheriff's Department will obtain the support and resources it needs to be able to assist the NPS with incidents both in Cave Junction and at main

Oregon Caves location at the end of Highway 46. In turn, we intend to assist the Department as much as we can with the Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue personnel we employ.

**Vicki J. Snitzler
Superintendent
Oregon Caves National
Monument and Preserve**

Dear Editor,

Any war or battle takes a terrible toll on many completely innocent people. Ordinary citizens who just wish to live and let live. These innocent civilians end up paying for these conflicts in money and stress and sometimes with their lives. Strong deterrents to conflict is worth every penny. I'm sure nearly every US citizen is hopeful that our leaders make careful decisions that avoid doing battle,

especially with the recent world situations. But if or when we do have to fight, we'll be very thankful that we have a full military force that is powerful, sophisticated and well trained. I believe we do have one and I believe that our military is a great deterrent to those that might think about going to war with the USA. We pay a great deal for this deterrent, sharing the burden of the very high cost among us.

In our county, we face many issues with the criminal side of our citizenry and with such limited jail availability the criminal element is becoming bolder and more active. So many crimes like shoplifting, car thefts, burglaries and more happen much too often and cost good and conscientious people a great amount of anguish and money. As a local business person I

witness these problems constantly and the increases in crime are of great concern to me as I plan for the future of my business in Josephine County. It's hard to feel confident in pushing ahead aggressively when dealing with the increasing criminal element.

Nobody loves paying taxes, and many feel that they can take care of themselves and defend their property on their own. Perhaps they can in some cases. But the reality of the situation of catching a burglar in your home or car could be a terrible legal situation and a very frightening position to be in. Even more so in a business. And there are so many other crimes that happen where a well-trained officer of the law and a jail cell for the perpetrator is critical and reassuring to have available.

Continued on A-3

Obituaries

Robert Harold

Hamlin, 74, of Kerby, died April 19, 2017 at his home after battling renal failure and diabetes.

Robert was born Feb. 10, 1943 in Ohio. He was married twice and had three children. He lived in Arizona and Oregon. He drove truck, built a log cabin to live in with his sweet dog, Penny. The two of them traveled on a bus cross-country; lived on the Illinois River for eight years mining gold and fishing.

Robert was a real craftsman making jewelry.

He is survived by his friend, Gayla Thoms.

A graveside service with military honors will be at 1 p.m., Friday, May 5, 2017 at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

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

Pat Ann Tweedy

"Aunt Pat," 82, of Cave Junction died April 23, 2017.

Pat was born Oct. 20, 1934 to Mae and Morris Higby and moved

to Cave Junction in 1990 from Carson, Calif. She was lovingly known as Aunt Pat by almost everyone in the area. Pat was amazingly, always remembered ever one's name and usually their children (a few hundred people!)

Aunt Pat always tried to meet everyone's need. You knew that she cared! She didn't care if you were dirty, drugged or drunk. You got a hug and she'd say Jesus loves you, he cares. She was also known as Happy Pat always said happy Monday, Tuesday, etc. She wore a smile although it was rough toward the end. She never complained. Pat worked for Union 76, B.P. and True Value. She retired in 2000. Her volunteer work included feeding the hungry, Food Band, and bread ministry. Her main hobby was loving and meeting everyone's needs if possible.

She is survived by her son, Robert Day of Calif.; grandchildren, Nancy, Robert and Lisa Day of Calif.; niece and nephews, Tim and Vikki Duffy of Cave Junction, Richard and Robin Day of Cave Junction,

Zane Blankenship of Cave Junction, Shawn Blankenship of Medford and Shawn Blankenship of Turlock, Calif.; two great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband William Tweedy, one sister and three brothers.

There will be a Celebration of Life at Foundation of Life, 451 Junction Ave. May 20 at 11 a.m. There will be a potluck to follow.

Melvin "Mel" Hugh

Barlow died after a 23 year battle with cancer with two of his children by his side.

Mel was born to George and Lettie Barlow on June 13, 1931 in Boring, Ore.

In 1949 at the age of 18 Mel arrived to the Illinois Valley and began his quest. In 1951 he married Elsie Arnett and had four children; Gary, Michelle, Gail and Jonathan.

In 1960 along with many others Mel helped build the Collier Tunnel south of Cave

Junction on Hwy 199. Shortly after this he formed Barlow Rock and Redmix where he supplied rock and cement for the development and infrastructure of countless city streets and subdivisions in Cave Junction some of which were named after him "Barlow Street" & "Jonathan Court".

Then in 1981 he married Nora Jensen and had two children; Elana and Ozzie.

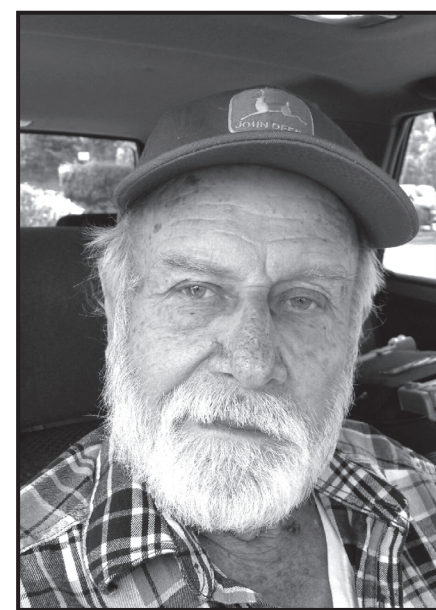
Mel was in business for 50 years within this time he served many in Cave Junction and surrounding areas. He was considered one of the "Good Ol' Boys" of the Illinois Valley. Mel had a passion for auctions, trains and old motors. Tinkering on engines was his forte' and could make a piece of metal dance with his fabrication skills.

Mel Barlow is survived by his six children, Gary Barlow of Grants Pass, Gail Kusmit of Wallingford, Conn., Michelle Whiting of Evans, Wash., Jonathan Barlow of Cave Junction, Elana Ommert of Cave Junction and Ozzie Barlow of Trail, Ore.

He had 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mel spent most of his life in Cave Junction and was considered a true pioneer of Illinois Valley.

He will be sorely missed by his friends and family.



Melvin Hugh Barlow

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date

May 4

"Kick off Meeting" for the I.V. Community Watch Program. Thursday, May 4, 6 - 8 p.m. All Neighborhood Watch members in Cave Junction and the Illinois Valley. Includes businesses and church representatives, open to everyone. 2-way radios, watch building guidelines, networking, website, Facebook. Contact Guenter - 541-415-1929 / ivwatch541@gmail.com.

May 4

IVHS boys' JV baseball game at Lakeview High School at 3:30 p.m.

IVHS girls' JV softball game at home versus Ashland High School at 4:30 p.m.

May 5

IVHS varsity track meet at home at 4 p.m.

IVHS boys' JV baseball game at home versus Umpqua Valley Christian at 4:30 p.m.

May 6

IVHS boys' varsity golf tournament at Bandon Crossings at 9 a.m.

IVHS boys' varsity baseball game, senior night at home versus Lakeview High School at noon and 2 p.m.

IVHS girls' varsity softball game, senior night at home versus Lakeview High School at 2 p.m.

IVHS girls' JV softball game at Hosanna Christian School at 2 p.m.

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 7

Free Lunch for all veterans Sunday, May 7 at noon at the RCC Belt Building. Non military \$5, special presentation for Vietnam veterans.

May 7

Sunday, May 7, - Sustainable Cannabis Fair, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. in Jubilee Park. Co-hosted by the Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Cave Junction Farmers' Market. Enjoy food, music, and door prizes while learning techniques to grow cannabis in tune with the earth; family, fish, and field friendly.

May 12

Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13 at 10 a.m. to there will be a group of people meeting at Laurel Cemetery for the purpose of cleaning the trash and pea vines off of the headstones in preparation for Memorial Day, May 29. On Saturday, May 27 the American Legion

Post 70 Cave Junction will be putting American Flags on all veteran's graves. So we would like as many people that can come out to assist the cleanup as possible. Thank you ahead of time for your help. Bring gloves, rakes and shovels. The city has offered to have a dump truck for available to load up and dump on the cities burn pile. Flags will be put up Saturday, May 27.

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 13

Mother's Day Spa, a benefit for the Spiral Living Center, Saturday, May 13, 1-4 p.m. \$20-35 sliding scale. Give a relaxing and rejuvenating gift to your mother, sweetie, sister, friend, boss, co-worker, volunteer, etc. Soak in the healing energy of the straw bale octagon while you relax with friends! Choose three 15 minute treatments, (massage, foot soak, herbal facial, tarot reading, and more). Tea and treats will be self-serve, and you may win a door prize! For more info, or to RSVP contact spiral@spiralliving.org, 541-592-3386 or pre-pay via [Paypal://www.paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com). Pre-registration is recommended.

May 20

IVHS Golf Tournament sponsored by I.V. High School golf team, A scramble format, registration begins at 7:45 a.m., Shotgun start at 9 a.m. Team string (30 ft.) \$20, Mulligans \$5 each, tournament entry fee is \$60 per person/ \$220 for a full team (4 players) include 18 holes of play, golf cart, tee prizes, cash prize for hole-in-one, each member of the team must have 2 drives. Tournament is open to the public, player's fee proceeds go to the IVHS golf team. For more details go to the Club House or call 541-592-3151 or contact Athletic Director Bruce Reece at 541-592-2116.

May 21

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

May 27

Saturday, May 27, - Public lands clean up at Waldo-Takilma, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Join KS Wild as a public lands steward on some of the most beautiful and also threatened places in the Klamath-Siskiyou. Stronger together: We will work together with the BLM, Illinois Valley residents, the Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District to clean this place up - just in time for the finalizing of its designation as an offi-

cial "Area of Critical Environmental Concern." RSVP for carpool information and other details: call 541-488-578, or e-mail jeanine@kswild.org.

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 Riv-

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by
W.H. Alltheway, LLC
Daniel J. Mancuso, Publisher

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Illinois Valley News is published at 221 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523 Telephone (541) 592-2541

Since 1937 periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523 P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year in Josephine County - \$35
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$36
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$43.00

Illinois Valley News does not refund subscriptions. Remainder of subscription will be donated to the charity of your choice.

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DEADLINES:
News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcement and Letters
4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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