

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

Editor:

Regarding the possible sale of the JoCo building in Cave Junction, what is the fuss? It is not an historic structure. The Oregon Caves Chateau is historic; Grange halls in Selma and CJ and the I.V. Airport structures are historic; a lot more than the county building.

The county commissioners are trying to save money, a topic about which many people feel strongly. Now that the board has moved to save funds, there are complaints.

After dealing with many folks and organizations during my 24 years in the Valley, it seems to me that surely there are still enough clever people in the Valley to figure out where the Senior Meal Program and other events by civic and social groups could be moved. The I.V. Senior Center? American Legion Hall? The large meeting rooms at several churches,

some of which have full kitchens? The community resource center? Illinois Valley High School or other Valley schools? Former church buildings left vacant? Come on, think about it.

The current tenants in the county building likely could arrange to rent from a new owner. Or they could relocate to other suitable sites in the Valley. Yes, there aren't many, but I bet that the I.V. real estate agents would be happy to help.

**Bob Rodriguez
Clark, Wyoming**

Disclaimer from reader

This is a disclaimer regarding the Measure 17-80 content that was inserted into the article in the May 10th issue titled: "Safety meeting draws crowd", by Judy Hoyle. This was not a part of the information outlay or a discussion point for this Meeting. Dennis Hoke clearly state that it was not about the Levy or politics, which he addressed in the beginning of the meeting. "It's about networking neighborhood watches, supporting people who want assistance to start a watch, and for support to businesses and churches". It is for everyone, concerned, to send a representative and to participate with the several programs developing with the Public Safety Outreach Campaign which is held every Monday at Wild River Pizza, 5pm.

In addition for clarity sake on a statement spontaneously expressed at the May 4th Kick Off meeting, detailed in the article: "...more than one participant expressed

sentiment to the effect that those who oppose the safety levy should be more proactive in volunteering their time for the watch groups."

In the last four years it has been my experience that most of the people, that participate, in Neighborhood Watch have not been for the Levy. There is much afoot with our County, its politics, the Sheriff's Department (history), PERS, Law-enforcement unions, foreclosures, etc., that needs a through raking. These matters would overrun and divide our people who are supporting each others safety. Separate meetings, and forums, specifically organized, to cover these topics should be outside our service effort to Neighborhood Watch building. We are a diverse group of people uniting for our common cause. We don't want to be "hung up" on who voted for what and why, etc. We have no, yes, and "I don't know?!" people in most of our groups, working together.

**Guenter Ambron
Cave Junction**

To the Editor,

I heard that the Republican-led House of Representatives "repeal and replace" plan for ObamaCare shifts \$800B+ from Medicaid. Remember? It's the program that keeps that cerebral palsy kid safe and sound; provides life-saving treatment for your 54 year old unemployed cancer-stricken neighbor. Ah, Medicaid, the safety net for a healthy childhood for every single kid in America. But Wait! There's More...Not only do we get lethal slashes to Medicaid, the House Republicans' replacement for

ObamaCare (RomneyCare?) takes this \$800B+, calls it "tax-reform" and further line the pockets of the ludicrously least-needy among us in another Republican giveaway to the wealthy. The results still "trickle-down", i.e. down our leg while we're told it's raining. (Thanks, Judge Judy).

I have a question about the ongoing crusade to stop ObamaCare. Since the House Rs finally (and barely) succeeded after 7 years of trying, why have they waited until now to hastily craft this terrible piece of work, the AHCA? Already doomed in the Senate because of crazy extremes like the aforementioned Medicaid gutting to pay back rich donors, every conservative - and liberal - think-tank in DC worth its salt has a plan, off the shelf, ready and waiting to replace, refine or enhance, the ACA. Why didn't the Republican's just ask one of their allies in DC?

The House Republican Caucus, with its center already to the right; with its fringe Freedom Caucus so out of touch with everyone but their equally out of touch constituency that they're a liability to the Party establishment, is faced with a kind of mob mentality that stymies any substantive legislation. I don't envy the Speaker. He's herding cats. Couple Republican Party dysfunction with this amateur White House and the 2018 midterms should be very interesting. Stay Centered,America!

**Kent Fisher
Grants Pass**

Letter to the Editor:

Commissioner Simon Hare's claim that the CJ County Building has been underutilized and a financial liability can only be attributed to business mis-management. As Commissioners, it is your responsibility to represent and support access to much needed services equally to all regions within our County.

As you know, the Illinois Valley has in residence over 30% of the total population of Josephine County. What percent of services do we have here? The rash proposal that private ownership of our building will solve the county's financial issues is without logic or merit and would remove access permanently to this much needed community center. (Making money from child care without a play yard?) I am a resident and Medical Provider in the Illinois Valley since 1971. I am a Family Medicine Physician Assistant and currently the only medical provider in our region of Prenatal and Pediatric care as well as Family Medicine.

Access to services is a continuing struggle for our remote rural area considering the few resources, lack of transportation to Grants Pass, and the fact that

most of our children live in families well below the poverty level. The Federal program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a resource for nutrition, growth monitoring, health education and support, is accessible daily in GP and most other regions in our country. For many years it has been well attended at the CJ County Building two days a month, managed by the Josephine

County Health Department.

The JCHD just recently announced the opening of additional Immunization Clinic and Women's Health in the CJ Building after paying to upgrade and remodel an exam room there. It was both surprising and shocking to watch a TV announcement of this proposed sale, apparently without any public meeting or input. I called the Health Department Director today who was also surprised

as NO ONE from the Commissioner's office has contacted her regarding this possible loss of public use of County Building. KOB TV had an interview with a representative of the Senior Lunch program, there was absolutely no mention of any other community use, Health Department historical use of established and new programs, or building as designated Emergency Disaster Services location. Clearly this decision was made with no factual information or notification of the current or future users of this Building. The needs of the Illinois Valley have not been represented or considered. Please table this proposal until a complete Needs Assessment is obtained, Community Input Public meetings held, and all current users have been notified and included prior to any decision. As a community we all need to speak up for the needs of our residents and more specifically, our children who continue to need our support. Thank you for consideration.

**Sue Terran
Cave Junction**

Obituaries

Harry Johnson Jr.

February 9, 1951 - May 8, 2017
See story on A-1

Lee Allen Martinho, 54,

of Cave Junction went missing Dec. 10, 2015 in Gasquet, Calif.

Martinho's remains were found March 12, 2017, near Gasquet, Calif. in the area he was last seen 15 months prior.

Martinho was born Sept. 21, 1962 Tulare, Calif. to Manuel Perry Martinho and Carole Jean Robinson, the third child of nine.

Martinho was a very good football player and went to the state wrestling tournament three times in four years.

Martinho and his brother Lee garnered state notoriety as the taco brothers.

After graduating from I.V. High School in 1976, he went to work alongside his father in their family's construction business.

Eventually he met and married Jamie Lynne Camp and had four beautiful children; Marie Jean, Michel Allen, Melisa Marie Cozad and Jamie Lee Avalos.

After working for over 20 years in construction, he had a severe accident leaving him disabled and unable to return to work.

After healing for over a year, he found a passion in matsutake mushroom picking. He loved being

in the wilderness, it was his second home.

Martinho was preceded in death by his parents, Perry Martinho and Carole Jean Robinson; sister, Maria Annett; brother, Sgt. First Class Eric Neil Martinho, 39, while on duty with the Army; daughter, Marie Jean 7; and one nephew, Joshua 25.

Lee is survived by three children, Michel Allen, Melisa Marie Cozad and Jamie Lee Avalos and 17 grandchildren.

He will be missed by many. Family and friends are going to say their goodbyes at Laurel Cemetery, May 20, 11 a.m. His ashes will be spread at a later time.



ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date

May 19

The IV Garden Club's meeting on May 19th will have a presentation by herbalist Debbie Lukas on beneficial herbs in the garden. The IV Garden Club meets the 3rd Friday of the month at United Methodist Church, 200 W. Watkins (across from Shop Smart) in Cave Junction. Social time and finger foods at 12:30PM. Meeting at 1PM. Visitors welcome.

May 20

IV Garden Club Spring Plant Sale. Mark you calendar for Saturday, May 20th, 9am at Western Plaza, next to True Value Hardware, in Cave Junction. There will be lots of plants, baked goods, and gift items to purchase. This is a fund raiser for IV High School Scholarships. Come out and support your community.

May 20

Happy Birthday
Gabrielle Vincenza Mancuso

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 23

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. "An Overview of Bumble Bees" with Dr. Robbin Thorp: Deer Creek Center, 1241 Illinois River

Rd., Selma 541-597-8530

May 26

Friday, May 26, 5:30 p.m. EVENING BIRDWALK led by Dennis Vroman, in Fish Hatchery Park, Grants Pass Please call 541-597-8530 to RSVP.

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

June 18

Sunday, June 18, 6:30 p.m.

"Adventures with Butterflies in the Bioregion," with Dana Ross: Deer Creek Center, 1241 Illinois River Rd., Selma 541-597-8530

Continuing

*Illinois Valley Community Watch Meeting every Monday from 5 - 6 p.m.S. at Wild River Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy. - Cave Junction. A Public Safety Outreach Campaign effort with all I.V. Neighborhood Watch Groups - representatives, including businesses and churches, and support for anyone wishing to start a neighborhood watch. Includes a 2-way hand held radio program briefing from 4:20 - 4:50 p.m. Contact Guenter - 541-415-1929 / ivwatch541@gmail.com.

*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 Mon-

day 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 or visit cjp patrol.org.

*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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