

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

Some thoughts I've had since I read Robert Hirning's feature in the August 22, I.V. News. Robert and I, along with 40 local men and women joined 2-20 man AD Forest Service Crews in the mid 1970's. We were trained in

a one day session and off we went to the North Slope of Mt. Hood, for a two week tour of duty, mostly mopping up a large fire. Robert worked the day shift, I worked nights. I don't remember any great event or danger, just hard physical labor. In 1987, in late August, a lightning storm passed through the south of Takilma, starting at least four fires, later to become the 10,000 acre "Longwood Fire." Again local workers joined up to form 2-20 man crews, mostly to mop up. Since then, starting in 1990, I've been actively involved in wildland fire fighting. I've worked as a Laborer, a Contract Faller, a Faller Boss, a Squad/Crew Boss and now, for the last four years, as a Contract Heavy Equipment Owner/Operator. I presently contract with the U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire and ODF. Naturally, over the years, I've seen great changes, mostly in regard to safety. I really believe that

the U.S. Forest Service, in particular, has taken to heart and practice, the value of human life and safety in general. Often when a direct attack becomes too dangerous, an indirect strategy of building a bigger box around the fire (dozer and hand line) is safer and then the fight is on the fire fighters' terms. One result though, is of course, a bigger fire. In the past, often untrained and ill equipped locals (maybe loggers) mobilized to the more remote Forest Service and BLM highlands. This practice is now discouraged. It's one thing to protect your home and property and help your neighbors but beyond that, enlisting professionals is a better choice for everyone concerned. I urge any interested citizen to enroll in a 6-8 hour Rt130 basic wildland fire fighting refresher class and learn fire behavior and what can go wrong. Mr. Hirning, in his article, talked about privatiza-

tion in relation to "Big Fires." I don't see the connection. I ask, how do private contractors cause big fires? I don't buy into the hysteria that the Forest Service "allows" little fires to become big fires. Nonsense! For the record, I have never seen any Forest Service owned Heavy Equipment (i.e., dozers, excavators, etc.) on a wildland fire. I doubt they own any significant "iron." ODF and Cal Fire are an exception. Privatization has been around for a long time. The notion that agencies through privatization don't have to supervise contractors is blatantly untrue. As contractors, we are directed by agency personnel to accomplish specific tasks (i.e., open a road, build a bridge and fire line) and are controlled by qualified agency task force leaders or other qualified agency personnel. We do have discretion on detailed methods and safety concerns. However, paid con-

tractors are not permitted to freelance their own agenda. The Forest Service does have a plan and resources to stop small lightning fires and large fires. We have agency helicopter repellers and smoke jumpers; maybe not in Cave Junction but they do exist. We also have seasonal Forest Service AD hand crews and seasoned Hot Shot crews as well as numerous private hand crews, water handlers and aerial support. The last lightning storm on July 15th generated 70 fires and many were put out in a timely manner. Others got out of control because of lack of resources and access or initially deemed too dangerous for initial attack by ground. What we don't have are maintained logging and mining roads. Many roads are decommissioned with mounds or tank traps. This stalls response time. Road markers are in disrepair and culverts have been removed causing washouts. Why?

It is my observation and opinion that over the last 25 years, extreme environmental activists have influenced and infiltrated agencies and lawmakers mandating policies that hinder wildland firefighting efforts. I understand that their agenda was not primarily designed to hinder, rather their intent was to close down the forest to motorized travel. USFS sees dozers only as a necessary evil. Often an operator will wait hours and/or days for a resource advisor to okay a project like a safety zone, a water source, an escape route, a deployment zone and a medivac site. Plants, bugs and critters are now big business, deemed more important than human life, property and liberty. I do sympathize with some of the environmental concerns, however, the excessive "tip toeing" does have its consequences.

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Obituaries

Brian Robert Proett

Oct. 20, 1969 – July 23, 2018 Brian died July 23 surrounded by family and friends. Brian was born Oct. 20, 1969 in Portland, Ore. and Stanley and Muriel Proett were blessed with the opportunity to adopt him as an infant. Brian spent his childhood in Cave Junction, graduating from Illinois Valley

High School in 1988. From there, he studied business at Southern Oregon University. He started his very successful business career as a dishwasher for Abby's Legendary Pizza in college. Over the years, he worked his way into management, which took him around the northwest - from Medford to Eugene then Boise, Idaho (managing Golden Corral restaurants) and finally back to Southern Oregon (man-

aging Sonic restaurants). His work ethic was second to none, logging countless hours every week. Brian was a man among men when it came to all the things that matter in this life. He lived, loved, laughed and cared for people, always putting others first and would do just about anything for his family and friends. When he walked into a room, the light seemed to be brighter and his laughter would

spread to everyone nearby. Brian lived life to fullest and when he wasn't working he was traveling or spending time with those he cared about. There wasn't place in this world where he didn't know someone. His body was broken but he continued to give of himself for the betterment of others until the end. Brian is survived by his mother Muriel Proett, brothers; Kevin (Linda), Tristan

(Heidi), his sister Cheryl; seven nieces and nephews and numerous great-nieces and nephews, along with many loving friends. His father Stanley Proett preceded him in death. We will celebrate Brian's life - In Honor of Brian (IHB) Oct. 20, 2018 at 4 p.m. at the Eagle Point Golf Club in Eagle Point, OR.



OBITS CONTINUED ON A-9

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110 Save the date

Sept. 12 *AWANA Starts Sept. 12; Who: Children, Grades PK - sixth; Time: Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., (Ends at 8 p.m.); Place: Community Bible Church, 113 S. Caves Ave. Cave Junction, OR 97523, 541-592-3896. Come and have fun! There will be stories, music, games and (often) light snacks. Registration will be the 12th, so come a little bit early! Children must be registered by their parents or legal guardians. A.W.A.N.A. will meet every Wednesday night unless otherwise notified. Generally, if there's no school, then there's no A.W.A.N.A., i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas vacation, Spring Break, etc. A.W.A.N.A. provides a local church sponsored program for boys and girls, regardless of their religious affiliation. Sept. 13 *IVHS girls' varsity soccer game at home in IVHS Upper Field vs. Coquille at 4 p.m. *IVHS girls' JV volleyball game at Bonanza, 31601 Mission St., Bonanza, OR 97623 at 5 p.m. *IVHS girls' varsity volleyball game at Bonanza, 31601 Mission St., Bonanza, OR 97623 at 6:15 p.m. Sept. 14 *IVHS boys' varsity football game at Creswell High School at 7 p.m. Sept 15 *IVHS boys' varsity soccer game at Cascade Christian at U.S. Cellular Field at 10 a.m. Sept. 16 *The Rogue Valley Rose Society will meet Sunday, Sept. 16, at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of the River Catholic Church, 3625 N. River Road in Rogue River. The program, The 'Not So Secrets' of Flower Arranging, will be given by RVRs members Ingrid Wapelhorst and Mike Zerwer. Ingrid and Mike, award winning floral arrangers, will share tips and techniques for creating rose arrangements. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call Kathryn Hoffner 951-813-1940 or Tom Burns 541-680-6363.

Sept. 22 *New program developed by community members who met in the cohorts of the Ford Family Foundation: FREE Food Trading Post, 10 a.m. at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction to trade food such as fruits and vegetables fresh from the garden. All gardeners who have extra fruit and vegetables, please join us and share your crop with your neighbors in Cave Junction. Any leftovers will be donated to a local church and the food bank. Please call Kim at 541-415-1125 for any questions. All are welcome to receive the blessings of our harvest even if you don't have any to share. There is also Food Trading Post scheduled for Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. Sept. 22 *IVHS football fundraiser changed to Sept. 22 due to smoke. See ad on page 5. *Takilma Clothes Giveaway, FREE, at Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Rd., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sept. 27 *Thursday, 5:30 to 8:30 PM, Candidates Forum TOWN HALL and Potluck. LOCATION: Illinois Valley Senior Center. Scheduled to appear are candidates for sheriff: Dave Daniel and Jonathan Knapp; and Commissioner Candidates: Ron Smith and Darin Fowler who is on vacation, may participate remotely. CJ Council Candidates included. Topic Order will be on the Sheriff's and Commissioners Office, law enforcement, patrols, Neighborhood Watch, fire and emergency preparedness, then all topics from public. For submissions and to subscribe to topic updates email us at: ivwatch541@gmail.com. Event Sponsored by I.V. Community Watch. For more info. contact Guenter Ambron 541-415-1929 event coordinator.

Sept. 28 *You could win \$500, \$300 or \$200 for creative recycling of "junk." Spend your summer making a piece of furniture out of junk to enter in the third annual Upcycle Furniture contest sponsored by the Southern Oregon Guild. Judging will be Friday, Sept. 28, 3:30 p.m. at the CJ Farmer' Market at Jubilee Park. Your work will be judged on CREATIVITY!!!

So have fun making it! For more information pick up a flyer at the community booth at the CJ Farmers' Market Friday afternoons 4-7 p.m. Sept. 29 CJ Clean Up Day, Saturday, Sept. 29 8:45 a.m. - 11 a.m., meet at I.V. Family Coalition , 535 River St. Oct. 14 *NEW DATE AND TIME: "Making Your Vote Count," the third event in IV Indivisible's Democracy at Risk series, will take place Oct.14, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Wild River Pizza. Short presentations interspersed with video and theater will illuminate the many reasons voting is more crucial than ever, despite increased threats to our election system on several fronts. We'll also hear about those threats and possible ways to remedy them, as well as numerous other voting-related topics. Community dialogue will follow. Admission is free. For more information or to help, call 541-761-4746, or email dwyer@cavenet.com. Oct. 19 *2018 10th Annual Valley Girls Quilt Show a project of IVCDO October 19, 20 & 21, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. I.V. Senior Center 520 E. River Street Cave Junction Entrance Fee \$3. All proceeds donated to: I.V. Youth Soccer Club I.V. Boys & Girls Club I.V. Little League Baseball. 100 Never Shown Before Quilts on display Country Store Games & Door Prizes 2018 Opportunity Quilt "A Year -in The Valley" Burgers & Desserts too! Also enjoy Artoberfest in Kerby. *MEDICARE 101 Learn the basics of Medicare and what you need to consider before making your health care choices. Attend a free, educational Medicare workshop. Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.; Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.; and Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River Street, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Continuing Saturdays *Stretch your summer at the Selma Cen-

ter! Classic Movie Nights every Saturday this month. Drive-In Deal: only \$10 per car. Gates open 6:30 p.m. Sept. 15 is Mystery Night! Classic cartoons during dusk, 3 mystery flicks after dark. First up: "Charade" with Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant, followed by "Sherlock Holmes" starring Basil Rathbone. Third movie, "D.O.A" is film noir with Edmond O'Brien trying to learn why he's been poisoned and "whodunit" before he dies. Bring jackets and seating for outdoors. Smoke or rain? Screening in the gym! Refreshment Booth: baked goods, popcorn, candy and sodas.

Aug. 21 – Sept. 30 Native Plant Sale: Online Pre-orders Aug. 21– Sept. 30, 2018, Wildflowers – Shrubs – Trees – Bulbs Order Online: Rogue Native Plants.org. Plant Pickups: Oct 6, 2018, Cave Junction & Medford, Rogue Native Plant Partnership & Illinois Valley Conservation District *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. *Illinois Valley Democrats meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. in Cave Junction. Join with like-minded people for camaraderie and to plan actions in support of the Democratic agenda. Call Anita 541-592-3073 to confirm meeting days. Check us out on FB! *Public Health Clinic- Location: I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., CJ, 1st Thursday of every month. Services offered STI Testing/ Treatment, Women's Health Exams (Annuals/ Problem Visits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing, Pre-pregnancy counseling. 3rd Thursday of every month: STI testing/treatment, birth control counseling (methods limited), Pregnancy Testing, Immunizations. Call 541-474-5329 for an appointment, and make sure to tell the receptionist to schedule you in CJ. Walk-ins welcome! Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

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