

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

In order to sustain any reasonable facsimile of life as we are so privileged to live it, we must immediately and permanently change our overall priorities. By designation, a "priority" is "the fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important." With that definition in mind and hopefully, heart, we must truthfully and sincerely, without a doubt or hesitation, redefine our priorities as human beings on a degraded, poisoned and dying planet. At best, this redefinition of priorities will assist us, and all life forms to better survive on and heal our very sick and cancer ridden home. By cancer, I mean the conditions we as humans have created

which destroy and devour the very healthy, balanced conditions which exist to support our pathetic attempt of living truly meaningful and reciprocating lives. Our top priority must be the healing and continued protection of the health of water, soil, air and our oceans. Reciprocity must be our priority, not the constant and uncontrolled "taking" from the natural environment, at a pace by which we need nearly 2 earth's to support humankind. We have but One Earth, one common home, which we have ravaged, poisoned and altered to the point of a near irreversible course. Our journey now and into the future must be one of self-responsibility, self-discipline, reciprocity and living lightly and much

more simply upon our planet. It is up to every individual to commit to the goal of restoring health to our natural world and all life.

**Len Greenwood
Selma**

Reader responds to reader

In regards to Mark Seligman's Sept. 26 letter to the editor questioning my qualifications to maintain my seat on the Cave Junction City Council, I have attached a letter to Mayor Dalegowski from the League of Oregon Cities counsel.

Mr. Dalegowski:

I am responding to your inquiry regarding qualifications for councilors in your city took a look at the Cave Junction charter, and it ap-

pears to me that the residency requirement only applies at the time of the election, not to the entire term in office. Specifically, Section 12 states that a person is qualified to be a city councilor if, "at the time of his election," the person (1) is a qualified voter under state law, and (2) has resided in city for at least one year immediately preceding the election. Assuming a person was qualified for the office at the time of the election, moving out of the city after the election would not render the person ineligible for the office (and thus there would not be a vacancy under Section 30). Of course, if the person wanted to be re-elected to the council, they would not be eligible at the time of the next election un-

less they moved back into the city at least one year prior.

Qualifications of city councilors are set by local law, typically the charter, not by state law. (Unless the local law violates federal or state law, e.g., if a city made being a white male a qualification for election to the council, the local law would violate the Fourteenth Amendment). Thus, if a person meets local qualifications, they can serve on the council.

I hope that helps, please let me know if you have further questions.

Philip Thoennes
Assistant General Counsel
League of Oregon Cities

I hope this clears up any confusion.

**Lindsey B. Jones
Cave Junction**

Obituaries

Katheryn Grace Buckendahl, 74, of Cave Junction died Sept. 23, 2018, at her home.

The service will be held at the Bridgeview Community Church in Cave Junction, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m.

Mary Jo Ann Longnecker, 71, of O'Brien died Sept. 29, 2018 at her home.

Arrangements are pending with Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

Marilyn Elaine Wylie Rentz, 57, of Medford passed away Oct. 1 after a brief battle with cancer.

Marilyn was born Aug. 6, 1961 to Gary and Pat Wylie and grew up in the Illinois Valley, where she lived until moving to Medford in 2004.

Marilyn leaves behind her loving husband, George; mother, Pat; son, Mark Newell Jr.; daughter, Jessica (James) Sherman; stepchildren, Haley Rentz and Charles Rentz; grandchildren, Mark Newell III, Landin Newell, Daleleah Compton, Jessina Sherman, Jamesy Sherman and Isabel Sherman; brothers, Don, Gary and Daniel Wylie. She is preceded in death by her father, Gary.

Marilyn loved her grandchildren unconditionally and spoiled them whenever and however she could. She enjoyed camping, fishing, the Seattle Seahawks and her Oregon Ducks.

Please join us in sharing a celebration of Marilyn's life at the Lions Clubhouse at the Illinois Valley Airport at 11 a.m. Oct. 20. It will be a potluck style.

Rest In Peace and Love Marilyn, you will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to be a part of your life.

Commissioners seek comment on smart meter ordinance

The Board of Josephine County Commissioners has scheduled Ordinance 2018-006 for a reading at 9 a.m. Oct. 17, 2018. The ordinance pertains to smart meters, which are currently being installed by Pacific Power. The ordinance will:

- Prohibit public utilities from requiring persons who decline to accept smart meters to pay opt-out fees;
- Require public utilities to honor requests to replace smart meters with non-radio frequency meters provided the customer makes the request

90 days after the effective date of the ordinance;

- Require public utilities to work to institute alternative reading or reporting methods for customers who request such services.

If approved by the Board of County Commissioners, the ordinance would go into effect 90 days after the Second Reading, which is tentatively scheduled for October 31, 2018.

The point of contact for this matter is Legal Counsel Wally Hicks (541-474-5226) (whicks@co.josephine.or.us).

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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541-592-4110

Save the date

Oct. 10

*IVHS boys' varsity soccer game, senior night at home vs. Cascade Christian at 6 p.m.

Oct. 11

*IVHS girls' JV volleyball game at home vs. Glide at 4:30 p.m.

*IVHS girls' varsity soccer game at home vs. Lakeview at 4:30 p.m.

*IVHS girls' varsity volleyball game at home vs. Glide at 6:15 p.m.

Oct. 12

*IVHS varsity football game at Rogue River High School at 7 p.m., 1045 Rogue River

Starting Oct. 12

*The Illinois Valley CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is offering a free disaster/emergency preparedness training for community members on three Friday evenings 6-9 p.m., Oct. 12, 19 & 26 and three Saturdays 9-4 p.m., Oct. 13, 20 & 27, held at the Selma Fire Station #2, 18455 Redwood Hwy, Selma 97538. This is an opportunity to learn critical skills to protect your family and your community after a disaster. Call Ned Booth at 541-539-6356 or email nedbooth@ivfire.com to sign up.

Oct. 13

Saturday, Oct. 13, 11a.m. - 12 p.m. Artful Arachnids! Free craft class for all ages at the library. Bring your needle-nose pliers, and we'll supply the rest to make your very own spooky spider. Class size is limited, please call to register 541-592-4778. I.V. Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

*IVHS girls' JV volleyball game at home vs. Lost River at 12:30 p.m.

*IVHS boys' varsity soccer game at home vs. Paisley at 1 p.m.

IVHS girls' varsity volleyball game, senior night at home vs. Lost River at 2 p.m.

*MARCHING BAND COMPETITION IS SATURDAY

*Twelve high school bands are scheduled to perform Saturday, Oct. 13, during the 25th Annual Pride of the Northwest marching band competition at Grants Pass High School. Finals competition starts at 5:15 p.m. at Mel Ingram Field. The bands are from Grants Pass, South Medford, Crater, Phoenix, Roseburg, Del Norte, Hillsboro, St. Helens, McMinnville, Silverton, Sprague and Liberty high schools. The combined bands from North and South middle schools in Grants Pass are due to perform the National Anthem prior to the start of finals competition. Preliminary competition begins at noon. Arrive early for the best seats and parking. Food, drinks and souvenirs will be available for purchase.

Cost of entry for spectators is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students K-12, seniors 65-plus and veterans. Tickets are available at the gate or at GPHS, Kelly's Automotive and Oregon Books. The 230-member GPHS band and auxiliary will perform, but not compete, since the band and its supporters are hosting the competition. About 100 volunteers help put on the event, which is an important fundraiser for the band's booster organization, a non-profit group that is incurring extra expenses this year to help send the band and auxiliary to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City.

"Come support the band before they head off to Macy's," said Dawnelle Garcia, co-chairwoman of Saturday's competition.

Oct. 13

*The I.V. Garden Club is having our fall plant sale on Oct. 13, at Western Plaza from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.. We will be selling house, garden, patio and gift plants, and trees ready for fall planting. Also, there will be bakery items, and a country store with both garden related and other items.

Our club members are ready and able to provide information to help buyers care for the plants they purchase from us. 50% of our sales go towards a \$500 scholarship for a graduating senior at Illinois Valley High School, who has an

interest in horticulture. This past June we were able to provide two scholarships.

Oct. 14

*NEW DATE AND TIME: "Making Your Vote Count," the third event in I.V. 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 IVCO Oct. 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 a.m.; Wednesday, Nov 14, 2018 at 11a.m.; and Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 at 11 a.m. Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River Street, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Oct. 20

CEEN presents the 11th annual ACORN FESTIVAL Saturday Oct. 20 Selma Community

Center 18255 Redwood Hwy. in Selma, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. This Free Event Includes:-Hands-on traditional and modern acorn processing-displays of traditional baskets and other acorn-related items

-Fun and educational activities for adults and children-Scarecrow contest with \$100 prize-free entry-Coyote rising giant puppets and much, much more! Afterwards a 5 p.m. Potluck includes tasty traditional and modern dishes made with acorns. Indoor/outdoor, rain or shine! Come enjoy the fun and festivities As we celebrate the nutritious and delicious acorn! For more information contact Suzanne Vautier at 541-291-8860

Oct. 27

3 Rivers Chorale presents IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SONGS FROM THE STAGE featuring solos, duets, ensembles and the entire 3 Rivers Chorale on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Grants Pass Golf Club Banquet Room. \$30 ticket price includes full buffet dinner. A no-host bar is available. Advance tickets are available at Oregon Books, 150 N.E. "E" in Grants Pass. Tickets will not be available at the door. Visit 3riverschorale.org to find out more about the Chorale and to listen to music from past performances. For information phone 541-592-2981.

Continuing

Chess Club at the library. All ages and levels are welcome. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month. Chess boards will be provided. Drop in for a game from 3 p.m - 6 p.m. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. IV Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

*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!

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