

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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 wants your input

Dear editor and fellow citizens, We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. Clean water, forested mountains, and clear air are part of our life here. In fact, they are the defining characteristics of living in Southern Oregon. Now that beauty, our lifestyle, is being threatened by the destructive wildfires that have plagued us for the past several years. It is time to do something about this.

I have been invited by The League of Oregon Cities to address the State Legislature in Salem on the topic of the effects of the fires on our citizens, with the hope that they can put pressure on the various state and federal agencies involved to take the necessary steps to preserve our forests. When I go, I would like to have a stack of letters from people in this area describing the effects the fires have had on people. Health, eco-

nomie, and lifestyle issues are all appropriate to discuss. Have you lost pay at work because of the smoke and fires? Do you know of a business that has struggled or is in danger of closing? What about people with COPD or asthma who have needed to receive extra treatments? Did you have friends and relatives who have cancelled trips here? What changes have you needed to make to avoid the smoke? Were your children unable to play outside due to the smoke? What other effects have you suffered?

If you are concerned about our future summers, please send a letter to me that I can use to show our state leadership how many people are affected.. Please send a letter to:

Jean Ann Miles
PO Box 2604, Cave Junction, Or
97523,

Or E Mail at:

Jeanann.miles@cavejunctionoregon.us

Thank you for your concern, Together we will make a difference!

Jean Ann Miles
Cave Junction City Councilor

Reader gives kudos

Dear Editor,

What a terrific success the new Christmas Tree lighting event turned out to be, exceeding everyone's expectations by attracting over 200 people to the Chevron site last Saturday evening! Chamber of Commerce star Angie (who coordinated the entire event) introduced our host Jeff Styles, who welcomed us and called for a moment's silence in memory of Oley Crocker's sad demise; Oley had helped Angie's husband, Frank, string the tree lights,

A beautifully lit set of booths connected to Coffee Heaven - many thanks for the free, warming cocoa, Marilyn - and our Fire Chief Dennis Hoke's team delivered Santa Claus! A resplendent Santa and his helper were kept busy with a never-ending line of admirers, giving out countless, beautifully wrapped gifts. Adding to the festivities, members of IV Community Choir joined in to help lead some happy Christmas songs

We all joined in a lusty countdown to turn on the lights, which will grace the season in CJ and confirm the new sense of community witnessed at this wonderful event! Thank you for this great initiative, IV Chamber of Commerce!

John Gardiner
Cave Junction

Obituaries

Oley Crocker, 33, of O'Brien, died Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at his home.

Oley was born Leonard James Crocker March 13, 1985 in Mission Viejo, Calif. to Theodore Crocker III and Scottie Teal. He attended school in Coos Bay and Cave Junction, including Lorna Byrne Middle School and Illinois Valley High School where he was on the football and wrestling teams and a member of the Academic Master's program for three years; he graduated in 2003. Oley excelled in art and science and his family and friends recognized he was very smart. In 2008, he graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor's Degree majoring in business administration and an art minor. In 2010, Oley moved back to Cave Junction and worked with his father at Crocker Financial Services. On June 9, 2018, he married his best friend of seven years, Erika Rose (Hageman); the couple was married by Erika's grandfather in the Grayback Camp Ground in Cave Junction.

Oley volunteered his time to help build

the disc golf course at The Forks State Park and the playground at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction.

His many hobbies included art printing and sketching; wire art, especially tree sculpting; hunting; and time in the trees. He worked as a zip line guide at Out-N-About in Takilma which proved to be his favorite job. He also built tree houses; traveled to the Southern States to build confidence courses for Challenge Towers Aerial Adventures which benefitted youth and combat veterans.

Survivors include Erika Crocker and their children, Emmalynn Rose Crocker and James Howard Crocker all of O'Brien; his parents, Scottie Teal of The Dalles, and Ted & Jannie Crocker of O'Brien; and his brother Max Tee of The Dalles.

Those wishing, may make memorial contributions to Erika Crocker & Family at [Facebook.com/donate/954114784797533/](https://www.facebook.com/donate/954114784797533/)

A Celebration of Life will begin at 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018 at the Illinois Valley High School Commons. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Survey for new charter school available

A group of I.V. educators is exploring the feasibility of developing a free public charter high school (grades 9-12), opening in the I.V. in Fall 2020.

We seek input from the public on the need for an additional high school option, as well as what people would like to see as part of a new school.

This survey should take no more than 10 minutes of your time.

Visit ivcharter.wordpress.com to take the survey. Thank you for your time.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date

Nov. 30

The Big Flu Shoo, Keep the Flu Absent from Our Schools Friday, November 30, 2018, I.V. High School, 625 River Street 541-592-2116, 12:00-4:30 for all students and staff, 3:30-4:30 for family members, community, and agency partners, Shots administered by Siskiyou Community Health Center, All insurance plans billed, sliding scale available, \$45 self-pay. Some cost-free shots are available. No one turned away for inability to pay.

Dec. 1

*Holiday themed scrapbooking with local artist Sue Brockman. Create holiday tags, mini-books or cards as gifts for friends and family this season. 11am - 12pm class for ages 4-7, 12:30pm - 2pm class for ages 8 and up. Sponsored by IRVAC. Class size is limited, please call to register 541-592-4778. IV Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

Dec. 1 & 2

*December 1 & 2- 36th annual Dome School Winter Holiday Bazaar, Saturday from 10-5, Sunday from 10-4. Exquisite hand-crafted items, delicious food and beverages, raffle with dozens of prizes, live music, playground for the children, free admission.

Dec. 2

*Banana Belt Photography Club of the Illinois Valley. If you do enjoy photography, then:

Our local photography club is an informal, friendly, supportive environment for photographers of all levels of experience and with an interest in digital photography. The first business meeting is non-obligatory. Banana Belt Photography Club of the Illinois Valley email: bananabeltphotoclub@gmail.com. Like Us On Facebook: www.facebook.com/BBPCIV

Dec. 8 & 9

RiverStars Performing Arts premiers CANDYLAND, an

original holiday dance theatre show, Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Cafe Theatre. Reserved Seating is \$20 per ticket, General Tickets are Pay-What-You-Can. Call 541-649-2333 for more information and like us on [Facebook.com/IVRiverstars](https://www.facebook.com/IVRiverstars).

Dec. 9

*RCC Illinois Valley Chorus Presents Light in the Darkness, choral music and songs to celebrate the human spirit in the deepest dark of winter, directed by Kate Campbell. Sunday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. Free admission and reception to follow at Immanuel United Methodist Church, 200 W. Watkins St., CJ

Continuing

*Evergreen Elementary School is looking for **SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) volunteers**. Come read with children for an hour a week and change a life. Currently the program is on Wednesdays, but with enough readers, we'd like to expand to Tuesdays and Thursdays also. Volunteers are asked to arrive about 11:35 and will be finished reading by 12:45. To learn more about SMART you can call 541-734-5628 or visit the website at www.getSMARToregon.org.

*Community Watch weekly meetings are held every Monday, 5 p.m. at Wild River Pizza. We are there to help you build your neighborhood watch, fire and emergency preparedness program, local Immediate Alert Notification system (smart phone), and independent 2-way radio program. Come just to be informed. Contact Guenter Ambron 541-415-1929 or ivwatch541@gmail.com.

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 3pm - 6pm. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. IV Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

*The Sheriff's Office Substation in Cave Junction is now open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 to

2. Volunteers are still needed to staff another day and expand hours. Applications are available at the substation or online at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer>. For information call 541-474-5123.

*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.

*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!

*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 cjpatrol.org.

*Committee Meeting STATE OF JEFFERSON Josephine County 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction.

*Community Watch weekly meetings are held every Monday, 5 p.m. at Wild River Pizza. We are there to help you build your neighborhood watch, fire and emergency preparedness program, local Immediate Alert Notification system (smart phone), and independent 2-way radio program. Come just to be informed. Contact Guenter Ambron 541-415-1929 or ivwatch541@gmail.com.

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by
I.V. News 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

AP AP EXCHANGE

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