

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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

Councilor takes issue with hate graffiti

I would like to submit

my councilor’s comments from Jan. 7, 2019 for consideration to the Letter to the Editor section of the *I.V. News*.

...
Tonight, I would like to use the privilege of my time in front of the microphone to condemn the acts of hate that occurred in Cave Junction over last Friday night.

I, like many of you, learned Saturday morning of graffiti representing hate groups and dangerous paraphernalia that were discovered throughout the town. The offense was found on resident’s private property and on local businesses.

It makes me simultaneously sad for and infuriated at the offending party. It makes me ashamed

that this hurtful message occurred in our town. This is not who we are. Hate crimes are unwelcome and unacceptable here.

But more than talk about the offense, I would like to highlight and praise our community’s reactions.

First, to hardworking, justice seeking, community leader, Jimmy Evans: I give my everlasting gratitude for all of your service in our city. Thank you for alerting the community to the situation and ensuring law enforcement was contacted. Thank you and your team at CJ Patrol for keeping watch over our city and for helping victims recover from wrongdoings.

Second, to the those who offered help and resources to clean up the offense, Thank

you. Your generosity and community pride is evident. Let’s continue to find ways to work together to make our town more beautiful and equitable for all.

To those who speak out courageously against this crime and the injustice that it represents, keep it up. Lift up your voice and support others who do the same. And know you are not alone. I am here with you.

Finally, an observation. I observed many making knee jerk judgments that this act was committed by teens. It’s offensive and discouraging to blame our local youth without evidence. In my direct work with teens in our community, I have proof that we have a cohort of kind, generous, and creative youth. Let us

lift up those qualities. Let us celebrate their successes rather than place blame- especially when it does not belong to them.

And perhaps by blaming it on “kids being kids” we are trying to lessen the impact of the disgusting message the graffiti represents. Trying to lessen the pain or sweep the hate under the rug. Ignoring this problem will not make it better.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Dear, Community: let us be the light and love that uplifts. This is who our community is. This is what

we are about.

**Lindsey B Jones
President of Cave Junction City Council
Council Position 2**

Publisher’s note: *It’s the policy of this newspaper to not print photos of graffiti that contains threats or hateful messages. Due to the publishing cycle the sheriff’s log info will run in the Jan. 16, edition. The responsible party, 47-year-old Freddie David Layman was caught on camera and detained later in the day. As of press time, Layman was still in the custody of the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office on three charges of criminal mischief. ~djm.*

Obituaries

Elizabeth “Betty” Christensen, 91,

of O’Brien, died Dec. 25, 2018 at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center.

Betty was born Sept. 8, 1927 in Baltimore, Maryland where she grew up and attended schools. On Jan. 26, 1947 in Baltimore she married James E. Christensen who served in the United States Navy. She became a housewife and a Navy wife. She lived in Cuba for two years and all over the United States before moving to California, the last place the Navy sent them. Upon retirement, she moved to O’Brien where she lived for 44 years.

Betty was a great wife, mother and grandma. Her hobbies included gardening, cooking and puzzle books.

Survivors include six children, Jerry Hashagen of Baltimore, Maryland; James E. Christensen Jr. of Carson, Calif.; Anna Valenzuela of Pleasanton, Texas; Leroy Christensen of O’Brien; Linda Joseph of Seal Beach, Calif.; and

Kevin Christensen of O’Brien; 10 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James E. Christensen July 29, 2018.

A viewing will be from noon to 1 p.m., Jan. 7, 2019 at Hull & Hull Funeral Directors.

A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m., Jan. 7, 2019 at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

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

John Arthur McCullough, 80,

died peacefully, surrounded by family, in his home Dec. 24, 2018. John is survived by his wife Karen McCullough and his three children Michael (Kristen Busold), Kevin (Naomi Lowinger), and Christine, as well as his brother Michael (Becky) McCullough of Burlington, Iowa and sisters Barbara Breuer of Danville,

Iowa and Mary (Don) Taeger of West Burlington, Iowa. His parents and sister Carita Dyas proceeded him in death.

John was born Jan. 18, 1938 in Webster City, Iowa to Arthur and Carita McCullough. He graduated from Keokuk, Iowa Senior High in 1956, served his country in the U.S. Army from 1961-1963 and graduated from Iowa State University in 1965 with a degree in Forestry. He followed his love of trees to the Pacific Northwest and joined the U.S. Forest Service. He spent the majority of his career on the Siskiyou National Forest in Grants Pass. He loved his job planting and caring for the trees as a Silviculturist. Through the Forest Service, he met his wife Karen Gibney. They were married in 1976 and moved to Cave Junction and over the next decade welcomed three children into their home. His children remember him as a kind and patient father who was always ready for any adventure his wife and

children could come up with.

John was passionate about the outdoors and shared this love with his family on many backpacking, camping and hiking trips through the years, always with a camera around his neck taking countless photographs of flowers, trees and mountains. He also loved music and was an active and dedicated member of the RCC Illinois Valley Chorus where singing filled his later years with joy.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for 4 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Immanuel Methodist Church at 200 W Watkins in Cave Junction with a reception to follow. John’s brother Michael McCullough will officiate the ceremony. All are welcome to attend and celebrate John’s life. In lieu of flowers, you may send donations to the RCC Illinois Valley Chorus in care of Kate Campbell, Director, P.O. Box 2456, Cave Junction, OR 97523. The family would like to thank the Asante Hospice for their kind and loving

care and friends and family for providing letters, phone calls, care, and messages of support during this difficult time.

James “Steven” Towe,

42, of Selma, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, as the result of an automobile accident.

Steven was born Feb. 6, 1976, in Simi Valley, Calif. Steven worked in all aspects of construction throughout his life. His last employment was a furnace operator at Selmet in Albany, Ore.

Steven is survived by his two daughters, Hannah L. Ericsson of Cave Junction, and Suzie L. Towe of Grants Pass; his mother, Kristy L. Carlson of Selma; and his grandparents, Frank and Donna Kelley of Selma.

Cremation arrangements entrusted to Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM

541-592-4110

Save the date

Jan. 13

Please join us for a Stomping out Cancer in the I.V. fundraiser at Sportsman Tavern, Sunday, Jan. 13 from 2 - 6 p.m. There will be an auction plus chili and cornbread for donation and dine-in only.

Jan. 14

Monday Jan. 14, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m., Illinois Valley Community Watch monthly meeting, at Wild River Pizza, Cave Junction. For all Neighborhood Watch groups “leadership/captains” in the Illinois Valley to share information, support, and help new groups get started. Public Meeting, all welcome. Full Sheriff’s Report available from the Dec. 17 meeting with him. Email us for more information, or a copy of the Report. contact Guenter 541-415-1929 or ivwatch541@gmail.com.

Jan. 16

Wednesday Jan. 16 & Feb. 6, 3pm - 6pm

Chess Club & Game Night at the library. All ages and levels are welcome. First and third Wednesday of every month. Chess boards and games will be provided or bring in your favorite game to share. 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

Jan. 19

Saturday, Jan. 19, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Martin Luther King Storytime & Craft at the library. All ages welcome. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. I.V. Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

Continuing

GET YOUR TAX RETURN FILED FOR FREE! The Josephine County Tax-Aide program offers free federal and Oregon state tax preparation to low and moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older. We are trained volunteers certified by the IRS.

We will be offering our free service to Illinois Valley residents at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., on Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. , beginning February 2nd. Please call 541-592-6139 to make an appointment.

*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.

*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 con-

trol 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.

*The Illinois Valley Democrats meet quarterly at the I.V. Family Coalition. Join with like-minded people Saturday 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 cjpattrol.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.

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editor -Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

copy editor - C.J. Schatza

classified ads - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

circulation - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

advertising / composition - Dan Mancuso
dan@illinois-valley-news.com

mailroom - Kimberly Potter

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News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcement and Letters

4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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