



## Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO, Publisher

I've gotten some questions lately regarding my beliefs about politicians, police and public records. I've been paraphrased as saying, "Publicly elected officials work for me and they need to tell me what I want to know." The aforementioned statement is true — elected officials do work for me, for you and every member of the Valley. When they forget that important fact, it creates a lack of public trust

and confidence, or the perception thereof. Not to be confused with the Freedom of Information Act, which is federal, the spirit of Oregon's Public Records law (ORS 192.410. to 192.505) is this: "The state of Oregon has a policy of openness. The most important advocate for open government is the public itself. The news media often acts on the public's behalf in seeking public records to inform citizens about the work being done in their name."

work for me (and you). And, yes, in most cases, they need to answer our questions. It's important to understand that a good working relationship between the newspaper, city and county officials is much more ideal than the alternative. Regardless, there are bound to be times when tension arises between the press and the public agencies we cover.

The original purpose of newspapers was to tell the public about what elected officials were doing. Each state has open record laws and Oregon, in my experience, has one of the best models in the country. Like other states, there are always exceptions.

The purpose of this column is not to create or fuel any controversy over the death of Dennis Hofer. The sheriff and I have talked at length and reached an understanding about how this paper and his agency will interact professionally. We've buried the hatchet and are moving on. I ask that the rest of you do the same.

Here in Oregon, any public body is subject to the open records law. A public body is defined as, "every state officer, agency, department, division, bureau board and commission. Every county and city governing body, school district, special district, municipal corporation, and any board, department, commission, council or agency thereof; and any other public agency of the state. Schools, police and fire departments, county and state agencies, cities all are subject to the public records law."

On another note, it's time for me to eat some crow over some recent mistakes. Last week, I sent two of the wrong pages to the press and they were missing photo cut lines. Myles Hodge and Gabe Hearn were the welders on page B-2. On B-6, I left off the name of Brelyn Dhenin protecting the paint during an IVHS JV basketball game. In addition, Kenny Houck was incorrectly named Jenny Houck in the February 2 edition. I regret the errors. Thanks for picking up this week's paper, enjoy!— djm

So, yes, I do think our elected officials



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Larrick Jones is all smiles as he poses with his retirement cake. Jones served on the IVFD commission for 11 years.

## Selma Quick Stop closing up shop

By Darcy Wallace  
IVN Staff Writer

After nearly 11 years in the Valley, the Selma Quick Stop is scheduled to close on Monday, Feb. 28.

Owner Chris Mautin said the business did fairly well at first, but like several others the recession has hurt the bottom line. "It was just too much in the red," Mautin said. "I think we got into the business at the

wrong time. The recession hit earlier than most people think; if you own a business, then you know about what time it hit."

Fortunately, Mautin said she owns the property and doesn't have to worry about payments on the building. For now, she plans to enjoy her time and might open a different store if opportunity allows.

"I'm going to let it sit for a while and either sell it, or maybe at another time and date open something else here," Mautin said.

## Community member to join fire board

By Darcy Wallace  
IVN Staff Writer

The Illinois Valley Fire District added a new member to its board during the February meeting.

Dr. Jim Minervini D.C., a chiropractor in Cave Junction, hopes to contribute business experience and administrative knowledge to the board after owning a small business in the area starting in 2001.

"I've been looking for an opportunity to plug into the community and I met with

the fire chief to discuss the opportunity and obligations," Minervini said. "I think [fire and safety] is the most important issue in the Valley. It seemed like it would be exciting and I could help out."

Minervini will most likely be appointed during the next fire board meeting on March 10. He said he talked with Chief Harry Rich about possible seminars in the future.

Although Minervini isn't a firefighter and said he was a "newbie" on some fire safety issues, he hopes his

background in business and as a physician will bring a different perspective.

"My job on this board is mainly figuring out the budget and delegating different funds," Minervini said. "I've had a small business for about 15 years so I think they're looking for that experience."

"I think I bring creative thinking and common sense so I plan to bring those to the board," Minervini added. "I'll see where I plug in and I'll do my best."

## JOCO seeks applicants for housing council

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners announced Wednesday, Feb. 9, that it is seeking applications to fill two open spots on the Josephine Housing and Community Development Council (JHCDC).

Open positions are for one member representing the public at large and one member representing the Illinois Valley.

According to the board's news release, the JHCDC administers federally funded Section 8 tenant-based

assistance programs for the county, helping low-income residents get affordable housing and become self-sufficient.

Board members generally set the tone and direction of the JHCDC, giving direction to the executive director as needed and reviewing situations brought to their attention.

The news release states that the board reviews, sets and amends general operation policies, analyzes new programs and decides whether to apply them and reviews progress reports from

staff at monthly meetings.

Those that are interested can get an application at the commissioners' offices in the Josephine County Courthouse, located in Room 154 in Grants Pass, or on the County website at [www.co.josephine.or.us](http://www.co.josephine.or.us).

The board holds meetings at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the JHCDC conference room at 1205 NE 7th Street in Grants Pass.

Those that have questions can call the courthouse at 541-474-5221.



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### EVENTS CALENDAR



**Dale Hopper**  
"Claud" Hopper  
Saturday, Feb 19th  
5:00pm to 8:00pm  
Every Wed - Open Mic Night  
from 6-8pm with Jim Nolan



**Tim & Michelle**  
Solo Acoustic favorites on  
Guitar & Vocals  
Friday, Feb 18th  
5:30pm  
at Taylor's Country Store

To add an event to this calendar call 541-592-2541  
**IT'S ONLY \$5!**



**ROSTER'S INFERNO WOOD FIRED PIZZA**

@ the Chevron in Cave Junction ~ Mon, Fri & Sat 11-6  
**541-415-0517**

### Are You Prepared for Fire Season? Now is the time for fuel reduction maintenance around your property!



Photo: Scott Isaacson, National Park Service

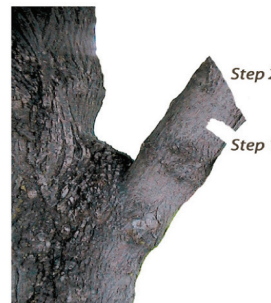
The best time to prune your trees is during their dormancy in the winter months due to the reduced resin and sap flows. The reduced resin flow decreases the tree's susceptibility to insect attack.



Mature trees should be pruned at least 8 to 10 feet above the ground and surface fuels.



Hand and power-driven pole saws are available for safe pruning from the ground.



**Pruning branches larger than 1 inch diameter:**  
Step 1 - Use a relief cut to reduce saw binding.  
Step 2 - Cut off branch above relief cut.  
Step 3 - Cut off remainder of branch above the branch collar to reduce tree injury.

Defensible space and fuel reduction information can be obtained at [www.roguevalleyfireprevention.com](http://www.roguevalleyfireprevention.com), and by calling the Oregon Department of Forestry in Grants Pass at (541) 474-3152 or the Illinois Valley Fire Protection District at (541) 592-2225.

