



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Our IVHS Cougar basketball team took us on a wild ride last Friday morning. After Thursday night's gut wrenching loss to perennial powerhouse Dayton, I had higher hopes for the rest of the bracket. Sadly enough, just like in football, it again was Santiam that dashed our playoff dreams.

I went up to North Bend on Thursday afternoon, checked into

and that could not have gone unnoticed by the team. As someone who gets to see a lot of games up close, I must say how proud I am of the manner in which the kids handled themselves. They were absolute gentlemen and gracious in defeat. They may not have had smiles on their faces, but they were practicing what I would call textbook sportsmanship. Kudos to

a hotel and then headed over to the high school. It was great to see all the folks from the Valley that also made the trek. They all made a lot of noise

all of them and also to the parents and families that cared enough to be involved. The Year of the Cougar has brought us great luck in sports! First football, then basketball — do we dare have the same expectations for baseball? Time will tell.

Speaking of sports, I again have to own up to a mistake. In the first photo we ran at the beginning of wrestling season, I identified the grappler as Gabe Miller, but it was actually Zach Anderson. Then last week, I ran a photo of Matt Coultas and named him Zach. You can see what Zach really looks like on page A-8 of this week's paper! I cannot apologize enough.

On the next page you will find a bit of a blast from the past. El Jeffe sent a letter to the editor to fill all of us in as to the goings on of the Rodriguez felines. I decided to

run it as a special "Bobs Corner."

Lastly, the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual awards banquet Saturday, March 19, at the Deer Creek Center in Selma. You have until Monday to get your tickets. Space is very limited, so call Chamber Director Dulcie Moore today to save your seats. Kate Dwyer is going to provide a fantastic meal as usual. The banquet will honor the Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year as well as a few other awards. You don't want to miss out on this very important fund-raiser for the chamber.

Thank you for picking up this week's paper, enjoy!

— djm

Gunners maiden voyage



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Dirk Brown and his companion Gunner enjoy a winter nights ride Feb. 4.

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)

The Big Lie

It was in 1988 that I settled into the Illinois Valley. It is a wonderful place to live, raise children, meet new friends, etc. But since moving here, I have met numerous people, especially women, who are greatly troubled about a wayward son, daughter or other loved one who has met an untimely death due to drugs, bad company or other sinful activity. Time and again, they have told me they can have no rest because all their lives, ministers in the churches and over the radio have convinced them that, because their loved ones lived a Christless life, they are right now and forever will be roasting in the Eternal Fires of Hell while God ignores their screams of agony and despair. The result: Weeping mothers — God-hating fathers.

For the relief and sweet peace which suffering Valley residents deserve, the

Big Lie must be stopped.

You Evangelical Shepherds out there; in the Name of Jesus and in behalf of all the people whom you have misled, I openly rebuke you and challenge you to tell them the Bible Truth about this matter. Stop hiding so piously behind the Immortality of the Soul Deception.

God told Eve that if she eats of the tree, "Thou shalt surely die" — Genesis 2:17. Then along came Satan who told Eve, "Ye shall not surely die" Genesis 3:4. That was the very first lie ever told, and the Pagan Witch Doctors and Evangelical Preachers have been preaching that Lie ever since, causing many good people much grief, suffering and anxiety as they believe that lie and picture their loved ones "roasting and screaming in everlasting Hell Fire."

Jesus says: "The wages of sin is Death" — Romans 6:23. You Evangelical ministers say: "The wages of sin is Eternal Life in Hell." Who is lying, Jesus or you?

You shepherds, disaster awaits you if you continue preaching fables to your sheep. See: the End-Time warning from the Prophet: Jeremiah 25:30-33, 34-38.

If any minister or their church membership don't like what I say, don't get mad. Instead, for the sakes of all mothers, fathers and other Valley residents, let us, in Christian love, schedule an Open Bible Public Forum on this subject at the County Building in C.J. which will bring the Big Lie to its end in this Valley, all in the Name of the Lord and Christian Brotherhood.

Feel free to call. Questions: Ronald Greene 541-597-2697

When man dies, he sleeps, knowing nothing, until Judgment of the Last Day. Psalm 17:15; 1 Thess. 4:15,16 Daniel 12: 1,2

Ronald Greene
Selma

Miner Should be Released

Ronald Spears is one of the smartest miners in the country, who knows how to produce platinum from the Josephine county area. He is the only one in the United States who is able to do so with little impact to the environment. Other corporations have processing plants that cost millions of dollars to make and produce platinum and cause great impact on the environment surrounding these platinum processing plants. This makes Ron Spears one of the smartest miners in the United States for processing and producing platinum in an economically friendly way. What happened was an unfortunate accident, but we feel that Mr. Spears has served his time during the past 2 years and should be released from the Josephine County jail.

Justin Stewart
Douglas Stewart
James A. Zeek
Jack G. Zeek
Florence Rushing
Jason Gill
Marion Nichols

Spraying Notification

"Currently residents near the spray... are the only ones who receive notification." I see the clear-cut out of my kitchen window. Our north property line is the south property line of the mentioned 70-acre plot. Is anyone closer? We received no notification of spraying or meeting. Perpetua has never contacted us.

Sharon Reason
Selma

Inhabitants of Illinois Valley

Inhabitants of Illinois Valley and Josephine county. It appears that we have a great opportunity in the guise of a problem regarding the proposed herbicide spraying of the clear cut that may adversely affect the water quality of McMullen creek and Lake Selmac. All of us who inhabit this valley and all who enjoy recreating at the lake may wish to examine our values and how those are represented in the way we are choosing to interact with the natural world around us. If any of us have the least niggling of discomfort regarding the use of chemicals designed to kill wholesale species of complex living plant systems it may be time to ask why we would ignore, condone, or participate in such an activity. Before we point our fingers, or while we're pointing our collective fingers at those who are doing this, we may want to examine our complicity. Are we using

toxic chemicals to alter the balance of living species in our yards or gardens? Are we consuming products that are created in a manner that appears to be detrimental to the biosphere? I think the answer to varying degrees has to be yes.

What beliefs do we hold that keep us on this path of self destruction? From what source did these self destructive beliefs and subsequent actions originate? If we human beings are just one facet of a multilevel, complex system of mutually sustaining, balanced living systems, the interaction of which we are just beginning to grasp, how wise is it to inflict significant damage on whole sectors of an intricately balanced system? Is it possible to do this without adversely affecting the whole? The large scale environmental degradation that has accelerated in the last few decades seems to indicate not, and may be part of our wake up call. If we have abdicated responsibility for how we interact with our environment to those who seem bent on a path to control and manipulate the planets natural systems until they can all be accounted for on a spreadsheet, more of the same may be what we're in for. It may be possible that these same forces that continue to monetize self-regulating natural systems have influenced public opinion and regulation at all levels of government to allow these self destructive practices to continue and accelerate.

Are we stuck or can we imagine another way? There are many in this valley that are making active steps to-

ward of life of balanced cooperation with the living systems that sustain us. Small scale organic farming, ecologically sensitive fiber harvesting, (coined ecostry), Natural, colloquial, sustainable building practices and permaculture farming to name a few.

If life is truly a game of monopoly then the monetization of all natural resources and living systems, including humans, may result in the death of many species. Maybe the chosen few will die from starvation or poisoning in a four star hotel surrounded by the illusion of luxury.

If real wealth is the joy of living in and experiencing ourselves as part of an opulent varied and cooperative complex natural system I would like to choose this wealth.

Can we have compassion for ourselves and others as we are learning to embrace the natural world around us and continue to discover our balanced place in it? Even for those who seem to be directly at odds with this perspective? Will our children's children enjoy this beautiful living planet or something less palatable? Time will tell.

For those interested there have been Wednesday evening meetings at the county building to discuss concerns and options regarding the proposed spraying. Look for posters, notices or go to the preciousdirt.org

Paul Hanson
Cave Junction

Here, There & Everywhere

Third Friday

Illinois Valley Garden Club meets every third Friday of the month at the Belt Building in Kerby. We feature guest speakers at each meeting as well as a Horticulture Table/ Show & Tell. Coffee Hour at 12:30pm and meeting at 1:00pm.

Every Wednesday

Wild River Pizza — Open Mic. 6-8pm
Contact Todd Kaberline or Jim Nolan 54-646-0975 or 541-660-8572

Annual Offseason Girl's Basketball

"The Mid-Valley Monarchs" girls' basketball program will be holding try-outs/sign-ups for spring & summer teams. The program is designed to help players who wish to pursue more advanced basketball during their off season. Try-outs/Sign-ups are:

• Sunday, Mar. 13: 3:30 — 5:00 PM for current 6th - 8th graders and 5:30 - 7:00 PM for current 9th and above

• Tuesday, Mar. 15: 5:30-7:00 PM for current 6th - 8th graders and 7:00 - 8:30 PM for current 9th and above. All try-outs/sign-ups will be held at the gym at Corban University in Salem, 5000 Deer Park Drive SE.

Try-out, team & travel fees will apply. Please visit www.midvalleymonarchs.com or contact Ron Hittner at 503-580-5722, rhittner@corban.edu, or Terry Williams at 503-871-6551, twilliams@corban.edu if you have questions."

March 12

An annual benefit for the Dome School — A Women's Café will include singing, dancing, poetry, writers, artists, healers & musicians. Please join us for the Women's Art Exhibit at 5:00pm and Performances at 6:30pm. We will be serving Quiche, salads, sweets & beverages. Everyone is welcome (please no young children). For more info call 541-592-2866. This year's event will take place at the **Selma Community Center**.

March 12

Illinois Forks State Park - West Side Road Access The West Fork Trail system off of Westside Road is a welcome addition to Illinois River Forks State Park. Greg Walter will lead this 3 mile easy loop hike to panoramic views of snow covered peaks. Early flowering spring beauty, trillium, and hounds tongue will be out to greet us. Meet at 10am at Coffee Heaven in Cave Junction next the Chevron Station. Call Rich at 541-476-6648 for more information.

March 26th

"A Night at the Casbah" featuring Mediterranean cuisine and dancing to Oregon Little Big Band will take place 5:30 to 9:30 pm, Saturday, March 26th at the I.V. Senior Center, 520 E. River Street. Live entertainment will include belly dancing by "Raqs Ahroosh," a semi-professional troupe from Grants Pass, as well as "Wild Azaleas" and "Tashkent" performing traditional ethnic dances. Raffles, live and silent auctions will benefit IRVAC's two major pro-

grams: Second Friday ArtWalk and Learning Through Art. \$20 Advance tickets are now on sale at Evergreen Federal Bank in Cave Junction. Dinner 6 to 7 pm only. Admission \$25 at the door subject to availability. Visit www.irvac.com or call 541-592-4444 for information.

April 7

Coming Soon!!! Ham Bingo, held by American Legion Post 70/Auxiliary Unit 70 on Saturday, April 2, at the Josephine County Building. Doors open at 5:00pm, Bingo starts at 6:00pm. A Spiral ham will be given for each Bingo game. 25-Cent per hard card, snack bar, 50/50 drawing & prizes.

May 7

The Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held May 7 from 9:00am to ?? in front of the County Building on Redwood Hwy in Cave Junction. Look for more details about this sale event right here in the Illinois Valley News' Here, There & Everywhere section soon!

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5 P.M. FRIDAYS

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