



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

A few weeks ago we started to run the photos of folks who have failed to appear in court. These failed appearances delay justice and cost the county a lot of money. Darcy Wallace is working on a story for next week that will hopefully put this issue into perspective. We are not trying to embarrass anyone by running these photos. We're simply reminding them that they missed an appointment at the county courthouse.

The failure to appear section was so popular that we also started to run photos of unregistered sex offenders. By law, when convicted for a sexual offense, a person must register in the area that they reside. Is that a hassle and potentially embarrassing? Sure. But failing to register will only make matters worse. Our publication will hopefully lead to regular and timely registration.

I don't like sex offenders. I, like any other

reasonable person, find their actions offensive. Folks that look at children that way and are willing to hurt them have some wires crossed in their heads. And, most sex offenders that are caught are not "corrected" after a stint in jail or prison. The recidivism rates are through the roof. Once out, sex offenders are likely to continue to prey on innocent people. That is why they must register in each community they live in.

My father used to say that the only thing worse than a thief is a liar. In my mind, though, lying is its own special form of stealing since liars are essentially stealing the truth. Sex offenders, it seems to me, are both liars and thieves.

On December 3, 1957 my second cousin, Maria Ridolph (my dad's first cousin) was kidnapped in front of her home in Sycamore, Illinois. She was only 7 years old at the time. Maria's badly decomposed remains were eventually found about 100 miles away by a retired farmer and his wife, who were searching for mushrooms on a farm outside of Galena, Illinois, on April 26, 1958. Maria's body was lying face down under a partially fallen tree and had apparently been there all winter. She

was wearing her shirt, undershirt and socks. Her coat, pants and shoes were never found.

How long was she alive before the monster took her life? I hope, for her sake, that it wasn't very long. Between court records and statements that I have had the horror of seeing due to the business I am in, I can only imagine what her last hours, days or even weeks were like and what she had to endure.

A lot of parents who lose a child start to blame each other or sink into their own privet hell wondering what they could have done to prevent this from happening to their child. The all too common result for most of those parents, including Maria's, is divorce. It's staggering to think about all the people involved in that one child's life who will never be the same. I was born almost nine years after her death and I am still haunted by it.

So, that is why I run, and will continue to run, the faces of all unregistered sex offenders in Josephine County. Last week one of our readers spotted one of the people we ran in the paper and that gentleman has now been advised of his need to register. One down, many more to go...

Thank you for picking up this week's paper — Enjoy!

— djm

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)

Quality of Living?

Truth be told, we love where we live, the quality of living is where it is at here. It's not the money...that draws people to live here and raise our families here. I get tired of hearing "if only we put jobs back in the woods" like the good old days. My father was a timber faller and wood-cutter, and I grew up in the hay day of the timber industry, lived right next to the Rogue River mill, and our house survived nearly 5 major wild fires, one that crossed I-5. We still had crazy wildfires and we were poor. We lived off our garden before it was in style, so poor all the houses I grew up in were electrically ungrounded and the roofs leaked, everything I owned was 2nd hand, one of my toys was a "pet stick", that gives you an idea of how poor we were but we were rich in the joy of seasons in the mountains, meadows, rivers and streams with the company of the genuine good people and characters that live here too. What is valuable...is our quality of life. The health of our rivers & streams are the lifelines of our community, my feelings of the Rogue, Illinois, Chetco and Smith. The mystery and intrigue of the Oregon Caves and the great corridor to the Redwood Empire. The smells of vinegar weed, sounds of birds and silence in the awesome Kalmiopsis. Naturally, I grew up and

moved away to the city, where there was a better economy and more opportunity. Starting a family resulted in my immediate desire to scrap my way back home and raise my son here in "God's Country". Sadly though, a lot happened that year in 2001, including the devastating Biscuit fire. That doesn't mean we punch roads into roadless wilderness for fuel reductions.. that's just providing access. Why not invest in the education on new technology to be able to control these massive woodland fires? For example when looking at rural property: rather than install 10,000 gallon holding tanks and clear helicopter landing pads around every rural new house over 3000 s/f, not to mention what road improvements they require, we could be investing some thought into the science of fire suppression. We keep doing things "the same way" and yet look how advanced we've come, you'd think we could figure out a better way for both fire suppression and mill operations for that matter. We are VERY special. We have the LARGEST UNPROTECTED roadless wilderness between Canada and Mexico. I'd like to save as much of this last frontier as possible for future generations. To me..my wilderness is sacred. Mine as in yours. This is everyone's, remember the rest of the country, since it is in fact Federal Land. We locals, should remember not to feel so entitled but we can be proud and cherish what we've got. On the subject of the Rural Schools Act and "our renewable resources", this is interesting because if we paid attention (as a State) we would see that there is a lot of missed opportunity with a lot larger pay out. Case in point. Geothermal Inc. One of 3 alternative energy companies that were loaned multi-billions of dollars thru the reinvestment act, (our tax dollars) thru the Dept of Energy to harvest truly renewable resources off of Federal Land in the State of Oregon in the past year. They also have the luxury of being offered multi-millions of dollars in State green energy business tax incentives (our tax dollars) to do so, then they contract with a Houston based company

to build the power plant, secure a 25 year lease to sell the power to Idaho and we, the State of Oregon, and the public...did we get a chance to buy any of the 5 million units of share of the company at the low price of \$1 per share (the price of a lottery ticket which helps fund our state parks)? We could have a vested interest in how this power plant operates and quite a return on our investment to help pay for our struggling economies, schools, libraries etc. Power or timber? Which is more in demand and which has a larger pay out and who is paying attention? It's time to stop beating the same old issues and start figuring out new solutions. Okay getting off soap box.

**Lydia Arbor Weatherwax
Cave Junction**

Herbicide Spray Lake Selmac

I'll start with addressing Dan's comments on his column in the March 31st I.V.

News edition. Perpetua (and its owner) did not contact their neighbors above

Lake Selmac, it was the other way around. The landowners had to 'pay' for a notice on pesticide applications from ODF - is how they learn of it. More neighbors, at meetings, have spoken up also who were not notified. I would encourage all land owners to write and share what your experiences have been with pesticide applications and your neighbors.

Atrazine (one of the worst chemicals) is not allowed for use in many European Countries and Canada. After 20 years of its halt in France atrazine and its toxic break down chemicals are still testing positive in their Watersheds. These herbicides are nasty stuff. Very little goes a long ways to affect life systems, including humans. Google the USGS 2003 National Water - Quality Assessment Program 'Report on Atrazine'.

Monsanto, Syngenta, Dupont and other

chemical companies spend millions to lobby

legislative bodies, influence laws, and advertise the safety of its products (but is it true?). The Laws that support these companies are not in the frame work of the 'Bill of Rights', where the common welfare of our community is put first. Rather what we have are laws that protect the corporations and their owners from charges of harm to the community. In my view, with the research that we 'the citizens' have thus done, we have a clear health issue and violations to Human Rights. There is an undetermined amount of toxic chemicals in our local environment, due just to the fact of the wide use of pesticide applications. No testing is being done by FS, BLM, DEQ or private companies that use these poisonous products on large scale land management projects in our area. I hope to be proven wrong. May we pray for transparency and accountability on this matter.

Just like our health system 'we the people' are last in line to be protected, unlike other countries. Corporations have more laws protecting them than we do.

All for the sake of the their right to profit (and plunder I may add). We pay dearly my friends and fellow citizens for their rights over ours. Unfortunately we are educated to accept this sad fact and if we speak out we lose our jobs (just to begin with). This condition must change if we are to achieve a sustainable future. Our citizens are rising up to address these problems, have our wells tested, and insist that our governments be our benevolent agents, administer solutions, and protect the common welfare and health of the community that they serve.

This process began a few weeks ago when the Josephine Co. Commissioners supported their citizens on with a Town Hall on March 22nd on the Herbicide Issue. A big thanks to our commissioners, who voted unanimously to hold

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Here, There & Everywhere

Every Wednesday

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

The Valley Girls Quilt Group has completed the new opportunity quilt for the 2011 Quilt Show schedule for October 14&15. The name of the quilt is; Seasons of the Valley, it is on display at Sterling Bank. Please go by and view the beautiful work these ladies put into this quilt. Tickets are

available at the bank.

April 15

Illinois Valley Garden Club's April 15 meeting will be member discussion lead by Donna Smith of Canning and Preserving of the "garden bounty". There will be tools for canning on display along with books on canning. As people are becoming more aware of eating healthy we have been asked questions about the how tos and whys about canning

along with how to grow fruits and veggies in our gardens. Personally I have always liked knowing what is in my food so never minded the time spent on canning.

Horticulture/Show and Tell table; Bloomin Shurbs and Flowers Plus Canning Books and Tools.

The Illinois Valley Garden Club will meet at Immanuel United Methodist Church on Watkins AV. across from Shop Smart the 3 Fri. of the month through the month of May.

Coffee Hour 12:30 Meeting 1:00 For information (541)592-4257 Spring Plant Sale May 7, 9 a.m.- sold out in front and inside the County Building on Redwood Highway. Featured will be Heirloom Tomatoes Other items Shubs, outside and inside plants,trees plus we do answer questions about plants.

April 30

Ladies' Fundraising Tea, Lunch and Silent Auction (Benefiting

the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley) Guest Speaker: Sherry Knapp Saturday, April 30, 2011 11am - 2pm Tickets are \$10 per person (in advance) Location: Bridgeview Church - 5181 Holland Loop For tickets and more information, call 592-6058

May 7

Men of the Illinois Valley – You are invited to "The Breakfast of Champions", the last men's breakfast before

summer break, May 7th, 2011 @ 8 AM Community Bible Church, 113 S. Caves Ave., CJ. This is a chance for you to invite your son, grandson, friend, next door neighbor to meet with other men who love the Lord. Please call 541-592-6132 or 541-592-3896 (please leave a message) by 5 PM 5/5, so we can plan. Thank you.

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