



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

I started here at the paper at the same time that the IVHS Class of 2011 was beginning its final year and last week's graduation brought back a lot of good memories.

Unlike many of you, I didn't know all of the graduates personally, but I still had a good time. What I found as I was taking commencement photos was that I did feel like I have a connection with a lot of these young adults. Oddly enough, I felt a little sad that so many of the graduates would not be on the field, court

or stage next year.

Between soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, softball and baseball I snapped off thousands of photos of your children. Not only sports but plays, concerts and club activities. Over the course of the year I did find some of the kids through the lens more often than others. Some kids just seemed to be doing something great whenever I showed up with the camera. Other favorites were the ones who were always smiling or showing some form of emotion.

One of the things I was most impressed with over the past year is how polite your children are. This may seem contrary to popular beliefs about teenagers, but somehow you have done it.

I don't speak to the kids very much, I just try to stay out of their way while I try to do my job. Because I pay attention, taking photographs of your children gives me a good idea about who they are and a photo doesn't lie.

So congratulations to the parents, families and friends of the graduating class of 2011. You all did a fantastic job and this class, well, really showed class!

Luckily for me, the next school year starts in less than three months. The remaining classes will return along with some fresh faces from Lorna Byrne. In the 2012 school year I will have a bit of a leg up, as I at least know who many of them are.

In other news, I attended this week's city council meeting where one of the topics of interest had to do with noise. Nobody likes to listen to their neighbor's dog bark all night. Others don't like loud music when they are trying to sleep.

Because of those things, most areas have sound ordinances on the books. Cave Junction has one of those very ordinances called "8.08.150 Unnecessary Noise." This little gem goes so far as to include cats with bells attached to their collar. Now, to give you an idea as to how old this ordinance is, it also refers to steam whistles. It also gives me, as the only newsboy in the city, the right to sell papers by public outcry! Yes, a paper boy can

violate the ordinance while other people cannot.

Now, I am not picking on the city as almost all governments have outdated ordinances, but this noise ordinance was brought to light after the Dos Gringos restaurant shut down a few weeks back. After reading the ordinance, it makes no mention of a business having music to entertain its customers.

Since things are slow these days at city hall, it may be a good time to sit down and clean up some of these outdated ordinances.

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)

"Park It"

Let's make a statement. Let's try to make a difference. By God let's stand up now! Beginning Wednesday of next week, park it. Bring your sign too. Let's stand against stupid high gas prices. Maybe, just maybe, folks will stand with us. It just might catch on. At least one day a week on your own or with someone else. The more the better. Whatever day you choose. But just park it. Just imagine if enough of us park it, that would break the high gas prices. Remember, together we stand but divided we fall. Start it now, before you're unable to afford to go to work or buy food. Send the message, we're fed up.

Fuel effects everything from soup to hay. We have enough oil in the U.S.A. to do the job without buying from someone else. If we the people don't put a stop to it, we'll be sorry for years to come. Quit

spending and sending our tax dollars overseas. Keep it here. Create jobs and take care of us first. Bring prices back down and bring our products back here, before it's too late. By the way, too late is just around the corner. Time goes by very fast. Remember when you were in middle school? High school, etc? I do. It seems like just yesterday. Wake up before you're in the streets like the street people. Wondering, what went wrong. It was just yesterday things were OK. But now...

Don't believe me? Just look back about a few years or so ago. See how quick this crap came upon us? It only gets faster and faster as we keep our head in the sand. Before you know it, it will take a bucket full of worthless money to buy a few items at the store. And much more cost to get to the store, that is, if there's anything left to buy in the store. Scary? Yep! So, it's only up to us to help each other to realize it's only up to us and us alone.

So pick your day, days alone or with others, and the more the better. Just park it. Let folks see you in town, on the highway, wherever. Bring your sign and park it, park it, park it.

This could catch on across the country. Wouldn't that be something? It all started in little ol' Cave Junction, Oregon. We could get lucky and the media might spread the news. Either way, let's give it a try. See you out there.

P.S. We'd better pay very,

very close attention to the next elections, because it could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Ken LeGaux
Selma

In All Fairness ...

I opened the June 8th edition of the newspaper to find the publisher, Dan Mancuso, on page 2 accusing me as part of the city council of being "out of touch or deceiving the public." I find this very disappointing. Due to other commitments, I was regrettably unable to attend the meeting he refers to. I have never met Dan, but I know I have never lied to him or the public. Dan's description of the "new" city council is also incorrect. I have willingly served without pay for over 11 years. I find it interesting Dan makes this accusation against my character without ever having met me or even knowing how long I have been on the council. Additionally, he later states he contacted ODOT and was given conflicting stories, so he was unable to get any more accurate information than we were.

Mr Mancuso, you are a paid professional in the media with years of experience in getting facts from varying sources. By your own admission in the article, you were unable to obtain any better information from ODOT than we had. The Mayor, the other city councilors, and I are volunteering our time. We are professionals in other areas. In the area of getting information, we are ama-

teurs doing the best we can. Mr. Mancuso, I respectfully ask, how is it that we, as amateurs volunteering our time are liars, yet when you, as a paid professional with years of experience are unable to get any different information than we did, yet you are not a liar?

May I suggest that rather than accuse hard working volunteers of deception, you do as we do. Volunteer your time and expertise in gathering information that will help us to make the best decisions for our city. I for one would appreciate and value that help much more than criticism and false accusations.

Finally, Mr. Mancuso states he wants us to be candid, transparent, and hardworking. He then goes on to something more positive, the graduating class of IVHS. Mr. Mancuso, I join you in congratulating them. I see your congratulations, and I raise you with not only my word of congratulations, but by putting my time, effort, and work where my mouth is. I volunteered the hours between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am after a full day of work to chaperone and ensure these graduates had a safe place to spend their graduation night. Many others volunteered much more time than I did. I have volunteered many hours in the schools during their educational process. I have volunteered over 11 years on the city council. I have spent many hours volunteering in youth organizations, in the park, and in all 3 of our schools. You ask for hard work; is this the "hard

work" you are looking for?
Daniel O. Fiske D.V.M.
Cave Junction

As Concerned Citizens

As concerned citizens, my husband and I briefly attended the open house session with ODOT regarding the proposed highway changes in Cave Junction. We had heard rumors of huge barriers going through downtown and wanted to find out for ourselves what was planned. As usual, the rumors were totally blown out of proportion.

I must say we were embarrassed for our town. The ranting and raving in the parking lot before the doors opened was an indicator of things to come. Most of those attending were not interested in the facts and wouldn't listen when facts were explained. There is a way to disagree on a subject but coming in with an agenda to be rude and disagreeable doesn't generally get you anywhere. We picked up the map and left before the vulgar language started and attendees had to be restrained. I certainly hope the ODOT employees don't judge us all by the behavior of a few.

Then the local newspaper publisher who claims to want to be part of the community wrote a scathing editorial full of innuendos and very few facts just like the same raucous group who attended the meeting. What a slap in the face to our volunteer Mayors and Council members,

both past and present. Our newly transplanted newspaper publisher, who admits to having been in a foul mood for the past few months (since he arrived?), doesn't help when he blasts the Council, the Mayor, and for some reason even the County Commissioners for not being up-to-date on the plan but it seems his real agenda was to blast newly elected Commissioner Hare for the publisher's perception that Mr. Hare is ignoring the Illinois Valley. This issue involves a state highway in the City of Cave Junction, thus the responsibility of the Mayor, the City Council and ODOT.

Some in this community live here by choice and work every day to try to change outsiders' perception of our town, then some act like this and put us back in the dark ages.

Newspaper publishing 101 note to publisher - newspapers survive on advertising and subscriptions. I would suggest that the publisher of this "community" paper go back to using his editorial section to apologize for the errors in the newspaper and his offending of local folks. He could start next week by apologizing to the Mayor, the City Council, and Commissioner Hare. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones, even if they get them free.

Carol Dickson
Cave Junction

Publishers note:
Carol Dickson was the campaign manager for Simon Hare in his bid for County Commissioner

Here, There & Everywhere

Raffle Tickets for Scholarships

IVHS Alumni & Friends will soon be selling raffle tickets to raise money for scholarships. The tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5, and can be purchased at Shop Smart video counter, I.V. Visitor's Center, True Value Hardware, Wild River Pizza & Brewery, McGrew's in O'Brien, Lake Selmac Resort in Selma, and Kerbymart in Kerby. The grand prize, valued at nearly \$1,000, will consist of such fun items as a 6-man boat, 6-man tent, 6-person rafting trip to Galice, fishing poles, propane stove, etc. Second prize will be a dinner for 2 and lodging at the Oregon Caves Chateau and 2 tickets to the Great Cats of the World Park. Third prize will be two night's stay in a teepee at Lone Mountain RV park in O'Brien, as well as dinner at McGrew's and zip lines at Out-n-About Treasuresort. Watch for the display at Sterling Savings Bank, and for more information in next week's "Illinois Valley News". The winning raffle tickets will be drawn at the 4th of July IVHS Alumni reunion.

Wednesdays

Jog Your Memory! Illinois Valley Senior Center at 2:00pm. A socially interactive mental fitness program integrates challenging puzzles and interactive games with scientific information on memory and aging. It is designed to stimulate

while also providing social support. Sponsored by Care Source/ Mid Rogue Health Plans Contact; Libby Watts, Geriatric Wellness Instructor at 541-660-8155 or email libby_watts@charter.net

Wednesdays

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

Labor Day Parade Application

This year's Illinois Valley Lions Club Labor Day Parade will be on Monday September 5th. The theme for the 2011 parade will be "Illinois Valley, See it, Hear it". The parade will start at 10am and we are taking applications for the parade. Remember it's free to be in the parade and free to watch it. For applications you can call Harry Johnson at 541-596-2104.

June 15

Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer will be held Wednesday, June 15 at Kerbyville Museum from 5-6 p.m. All chamber members are invited. Refreshments will be provided. Any questions, please phone 541-592-5252.

June 17 - 18 - 19

TakilmaFM.com presents the 1st Annual Radio-active Music Fest. Selma Community Center. 3

Days of music & Magic. Vendors & volunteers wanted. For more info contact: Familytimeradio@gmail.com or lostforestrecordings@live.com

June 18 Deadline

Vendors & Craft Booths wanted for C.J. Lions Annual Show & Shine Car Show on June 25. For car show information contact Ross at 541-659-9251 or Linda at 541-450-2964 and for vendor information call Cori at 541-450-2964

June 25

Grand Opening of the Rusk Ranch Nature Center's Butterfly Pavilion in Cave Junction, OR from 10-5. The Butterfly Pavilion features butterfly species that are native to Josephine County including the Painted Lady, Mourning Cloak, and Western Monarch. Visitors to the Pavilion can walk among the butterflies inside a beautiful flight house - an experience that is sure to delight both children and adults. The Butterfly Pavilion is open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from June 25th through early October. Directions from Cave Junction: Go 1 mile south on Hwy 199, turn right just after Philips Auto Wrecking, (across highway from Pinewood Way), after entering follow road approx 1/2 mile to parking area.

June 23

Weather Spotter Training Offered in Cave Junction - The National Weather Service office in Medford is inviting weather watchers to a free weather-spotter training program. The session is from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 23rd, at the Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 E. River Street in Cave Junction. The weather service uses reports collected from spotters across the region to determine the severity of storms. Ryan Sandler, from the weather service office, will discuss the kinds of storms that occur on the Southern Oregon coast during the summer. He will demonstrate how to measure precipitation using a rain gauge, and how and when a weather spotter reports to the weather service. There is no cost for this class and those attending who do not have a rain gauge will receive one after completing the class. All members of the general public are invited to attend and the NWS will be recruiting new weather spotters. For more information or questions about the weather spotter program, contact Ryan Sandler at 541-776-4303 #223 or e-mail ryan.sandler@noaa.gov or Harry Johnson at 541-596-2104 or cherhar@frontiernet.net.

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