



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Mondays and Tuesdays are what I call production days here at the newspaper. Our press deadline is noon on Tuesday and later that night I drive to Medford where the Illinois Valley News is printed at the Medford Mail Tribune.

While I try to get work done over the weekend, I sometimes want to relax and don't accomplish as much work on a Sunday as I would like. According to the Bible's book of Genesis, God rested on the seventh day. Obviously God had yet to create a thing called newspapers or, worse yet, deadlines.

A moment with Mary: by Mary Halvorsen

"Will you be needing our special discount today?" the voice of the cashier snapped me to attention at the checkout stand of the health food store. As I looked up from my checkbook, not sure what discount she was referring to, I realized I didn't want to know. I thought briefly about what the word "special" might mean, and responded "I don't think so," as she conceded, "I was pretty sure you didn't."

I was still pondering over what she had been referring to when she persisted, "You're not sixty?" "I am not," I replied, most likely sighing out the words, but thinking, "I am closer to 50, lady, only by months, but still. I own a canoe and two pairs of hiking boots. I have

only been in the canoe once and am still breaking in the boots, but I have them," and wished I had possessed in my repertoire the Guatemalan proverb, "Everyone is the age of their heart."

Trying to compensate, she added, "I was pretty sure you weren't, but if you were, this is the day to be here." I looked around and saw an older gentleman in the fruit section picking up apples one at a time for examination, and a woman sporting a gray shag and a lamb's wool jacket wandering down the juice aisle like Alice in Wonderland, and thought how I could look forward to coming this one day each week for a discount on organic walnuts and black bean chips.

As I mentioned, Mondays start the clock ticking and that is when people seem to come into the office and call in droves. Most of the time it's an, "Oh, darn. I forgot to call last week" kind of moment. Other times, it's, "What's the number for the library, I can't find it in the phone book?" Or, my favorite, "Hey what is that white stuff in the sky?" Me: "Uh clouds?" The caller says, "No you idiot, the government is poisoning us with planes." That's when I say, "So, why are you calling me if you already know?" and the caller slams the phone down.

This Monday was one of those busy days, but the call I received this week was special. It started with the person asking me how long the Illinois Valley News had been in publication and I proudly told her 75 years and as of the March 6 edition it's 76 years. The caller was pleased by the news and told me that I could help her. She told me her request and I advised her that I would get back to her later in the day. All day long her request sat in the back of my mind. Around 6:30 p.m. Laura brought me something for dinner so I took a few moments to go back to the 1971 volume of the Illinois Valley News. Specifically, page one of the August 26 edition.

The lady on the phone was from the Josephine County Sheriff's Office and she wanted to see if we had any articles about a body that was found on Hwy. 199 in August or September

of 1971.

Apparently on August 19, 1971 the decomposed remains of a young female were found near mile post 35 south of Cave Junction. According to the Illinois Valley News, "The state crime laboratory reports that the girl was tall, slim and 18-20 years old. Long auburn hair with well filled teeth." It goes on to describe her clothing as "Misses sized 13-14 slim wrangler jeans, brown shoes with brass buckles and a light colored sweatshirt with the word 'Loveable' printed on it. A jacket was wrapped around her head that was pink and beige in color."

What made this stick in my mind all day is that over the weekend I found out that the March 9, 2013, episode of "48 Hours" on CBS will be about my cousin Maria Ridulph. I have mentioned in past columns that Maria was kidnapped and was found in similar shape five months later in rural Illinois. Almost 55 years later her killer was found and brought to justice.

The voice on the phone this morning told me that the young lady has never been identified and somewhere out there is a family that needs to know what happened to their family member.

I happen to know a few dozen Ridulph's and Mancuso's that felt the same way.

Thank you for picking up this week's paper. ~ djm

Letters to the Editor Save the date

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)

Thank you!

I want to applaud Senator Ron Wyden for his efforts re-introducing the Oregon Caves Revitalization Act (OCRA) and Peter Defazio for his continued support in this effort. Conversely, I want to express my disappointment with our three county commissioners on Feb. 27th for crafting an opposing resolution drawn up and signed by them against OCRA. Senator Wyden has always insisted this be an open forum and how many

years has this been out there for comment and to have this resolution arise out of no apparent discussion or shared thoughts, especially with our local community here. Added to this was a news release from the Park Service on Feb. 26th that stated; A new National Park Service (NPS) report for 2011 shows that the 76,194 visitors to Oregon Caves National Monument spent \$3,848,000 in communities surrounding the park. This spending supported 59 jobs in the local area. Overall spending between Crater Lake National Park and Oregon Caves bring to our local economies here exceeded over 38 million and supporting over 600 jobs locally. This is talking about a land transfer from Forest Service to Natl. Park Service on high elevation meadow and Late Successional Reserve (LSR) forest with grazing that has been bought out and retired, hunting to still be allowed and with no mining to speak of.

**Greg Walter
Cave Junction**

March 6

Wed. 6 p.m. March 6, Cave Junction Branch of the Josephine County Library, Genealogy Workshop Celeste Guillory shares how to research your family history without subscribing to expensive fee-based programs.

March 7

Illinois Valley H.S. Classics Concert - March 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the IVHS Commons. Free admission.

Monthly Herbal Tea Party First Thursdays 5:30-7p.m. March Tea tasting, discussion, Q&A. Tea and snacks provided! Cost \$10-20 sliding scale. Drop-in, no registration necessary. Do you want to learn more about the herbs that grow here and how they can become your allies in health while sipping tea with your friends? Learn proper brewing techniques, identify the different flavors of the herbs, learn herbal vocabulary, and how to integrate herbs into your daily life.

Needlefelting Workshop with Kay Petal: Join Kay and other needle felting enthusiasts Thursday, March 7, 5:00-8:00 p.m., for a fun-filled evening of needle felting. Bring your current projects or for those who have never needle felted,

supplies and guidance from Kay will be available. Location: Southern Oregon Guild Gallery at the RCC Kerby Belt Building. Fee: \$20 per person - supplies available. Snacks & coffee. Advanced reservations required through the Guild at 541-592-5019.

March 9

\$5 Hair Cut Day by Donation on Saturday, March 9th from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Backstreet Salon located at 220 N. Redwood Hwy. in Cave Junction next to True Value. All funds donated go towards Elissa Matthews' sponsor fee for National American Miss Pageant. The set goal is to raise \$240 for this event but the overall goal is \$800. Any questions please call 541-890-3824.

March 11

Beat the March Blues by treating yourself to a fun filled night out and learn how to Rock Your Crock (Slow Cookery Secrets). From the simple to the exotic and uses you never would have imagined! Lots of tasting and recipes to take home. Presented by OSU Master Food Preservers and sponsored by Doug Hoskins Resource Center. Class will be held on Monday, March 11 at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction on the corner of Redwood Highway and Lister Street. Class time: 6:30-8:30p.m. Cost is \$3 plus a canned food item to donate for the local food bank. Preregistration is required by calling Kimberlie @ 541-

592-4763

March 13

Library Lowdown Wed. Mar 13, 6pm The Library Lowdown with JCLI's director Kate Lasky.

March 16

Seed Swap Meet & Cookie Potluck Saturday March 16, 2013 12:30 to 4p.m. Location: Spiral Living Center at the Frog Farm 9044 Takilma Road Cave Junction, Oregon Spiral Living Center is hosting a Seed Swap Meet & CookiePotluck In an effort to evolve garden seeds towards local adaptability we are encouraging people to come and share their best varieties with each other at this free event.

Come crunch cookies, drink tea and swap seeds. Some seeds will also be for sale for those who don't have much to trade with.

March 22

Library book sale Friday March 22nd and Saturday March 23rd at the County Bldg, Cave Junction We'll have Membership Pre-Sale Friday from 2p.m. - 4p.m. and Open Doors from 4p.m. - 7p.m. Saturday Open Doors from 11a.m. - 4p.m. with a Bag Sale 3p.m. - 4p.m.

Continual

Free. Strength and balance exercise for seniors. M., W. & F. 9 - 10 a.m. at 113 Caves Ave. 541-592-2614.

**Josephine Community Libraries
I.V. Branch Library
592-4778**

Free Wednesday Programs

Wed. 6pm Mar 6 Genealogy Workshop

Celeste Guillory shares how to research your family history.

Wed. Mar 13, 6pm The Library Lowdown with JCLI's director Kate Lasky.

Mon. Mar 18, 6 pm Oregon's Poet Laureate Paulann Petersen reads her poetry.

Wed. Mar 20 6pm Movie Night-Iron Jawed Angels. Movie and all-ages panel discussion on women's history, rights and our role in the world. Sponsored by IV Safe House Alliance.



I. V. BRANCH LIBRARY HOURS

WEDNESDAY 2-6PM
FRIDAY 11-3PM
SATURDAY 11-4PM

In Celebration of
National Women's History Month

A Women's Cafe

An Annual Benefit for The Dome School

SINGING DANCING POETRY WRITERS

ARTISTS HEALERS MUSICIANS

Join us for an evening of
of enrichment and entertainment

Saturday March 9
at the

Takilma Community Center

5:00 - 6:30pm 6:30 - 8:30pm
Womens Performances
Art Exhibit

SERVING: Quiche, Salads, Sweets & Beverages

Everyone is Welcome! (Please no young children)

For more info call 541-592-2866

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Celebration of Life

Remembering **Nick Marshall**. Come join us for a celebration of Nick Marshall's life on Saturday, March 16 at 1 p.m. It will be held at The Takilma Community Building on 9367 Takilma Rd, Cave Junction. This will be a potluck celebration. Hope to see you there! Wheel Chair friendly. Contact Sanne at 541-415-1383

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News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcements and Letters

5 P.M. FRIDAYS