



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

As you are all well aware, the hot topic this week is the closure of the 90-year-old Rough & Ready Lumber Company mill.

This is not my first rodeo with the closure of a major employer and mainstay of a community that I have lived and worked in. I don't claim to know or even understand how this decision was made, but I know it was not easy. We all have our opinions about what should have been done differently, but only the owners really know all the facts.

Here is what I do know. There are 85 people in my community who no longer have a job. Families will be faced with a decision to choose to stay here in the valley or move to find other work. People that I call friends who have recently purchased homes and vehicles may be wondering how they will pay the bills.

I stood out in front of the mill last Thursday and photographed some folks picking up their last check for the foreseeable future and it made me sick to think that my job was to capture them losing their job. I decided not to use those photographs; I really

can't stomach the thought of looking at them. Instead, I used one that was given to me by someone that was there on Wednesday.

Economically, only time will tell what impact this will have on the valley. However, the black eye of yet another lost business in the valley will be visible for a long time to come.

On a positive note, with the help of a few major contributors the monies needed to purchase new wrestling mats for Lorna Byrne Middle School have been collected. Thank you all for your generosity. Things like this will help Cave Junction and the Illinois Valley keep its head up while we work through the hard times that have fallen on us of late. Moving forward we need to be reminded that life is better when we think about what we can do and not what we should have done.

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

A moment with Mary: by Mary Halverson

Random House gives one definition of garden as simply "...yard....lawn." Looking out our front door, I wonder what, if anything to do with ours. It seems it has gone through enough in the last few months. The pain involved in the process of change came calling last fall when we removed half an acre of trees in preparation for a project.

Two men from the area, experienced loggers, agreed to do the job. The first morning I went out and introduced myself to the one working closest to the house, and found myself explaining why certain trees were meaningful to me. "Our son's kindergarten teacher sent that home when it was only this tall" demonstrating the long-ago length with extended thumb and forefinger, gesturing with my other hand to the now bushy cedar. Looking beyond to a towering pine, I explained, "We have been worried about it falling on the house for awhile,

every time the wind whips up. I hate the wind." I went on, "That tree is the first thing I see every morning and the last before I close the blinds at night" defending, "We haven't cut so much as a branch here in twenty years." He stood listening, without saying anything, before quietly offering, "I like the sun" and I thought to myself, "I do too."

Snapping the kitchen blinds open the next morning, I saw him hop onto, and quickly walk the length of a huge downed pine, a chainsaw hanging loose from one hand, and it felt like I had wandered into the movie, "Sometimes a Great Notion." The next glance out showed the branches in a tall rounded pile at the end of the driveway and the tree in segments.

A couple days later I looked into a gray misty canyon noting the wet, shining bark of madrones, and that fir branches slant up, not down. Their green needles looked darkened

behind the shield of rain, and the faded, orange, jigsaw puzzle, of two large pine trunks, stood like designer phone poles on the other side of the glass door. I thought of the work going on back at the house and realized that this is Oregon's true garden. Stands of trees on hillsides like these are the landscape of our state. They are at the heart of why there seems to be no middle ground in the debate over how to manage the states forests. I have leaned one way and come back another, only to lean the other way again. The issue looks different when home is a small community,

Trying to figure it all out I pull William Stafford's, "An Oregon Message" from the shelves, and a poem called, "Figuring Out How It Is" catches my eye:

"How it tilts while you are thinking,
then you know,
it makes no difference for a long time,

then it does.

..How when a scene comes, you look over your shoulder and it's what you thought it was, but you are somebody else."

Often there is resistance to change, and just as often it is to no avail, because as the world keeps turning it seems inevitable.

The last day of the tree project, we walked slowly up the driveway, stopping to look back, and passed the stump of the one I'd had such angst over. I thanked the men for the job they had done, shook their hands. The precision with which they had worked and their willingness to listen had made it okay.

It was early October and the rain was about to begin. I was already looking forward to Spring, for the sun, the warmth, and change.

Obituaries

Calvin "Cal" Clarence Webb, age 83, of Grants Pass, died Friday, April 19, 2013 at Home on the Rogue.

A graveside service was held at Eagle Point National Cemetery on Monday, April 22, 2013 with military honors. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Please sign the family guestbook at www.since1928hull.com.

Calvin was born September 19, 1929 in King River, Arkansas to Clarence R. Webb & Stella Jo (Yandle) Webb. He was one of six children. Upon his mother's death in childbirth, his father remarried and had two more children. Cal grew up in Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. From 1951 to 1953 he served in the Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then attended college in Chanute, Kansas. He later managed a construction crew in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands from 1958 to 1961. He began scuba diving there which he continued for many years. Opportunity then called and Cal, his wife and two children moved to California.

Cal began a successful career with Sgt. Jack Kinney Heating and Air Conditioning in Southern California. He was a member of the SMW Local Union 105. After 28 years he retired in 1990. Cal then moved to Josephine County, Oregon where he continued to enjoy his lifetime passions of hunting and gold prospecting. He was also an avid dancer. Cal was a gentle soul with a good heart and will be missed by his son and daughter.

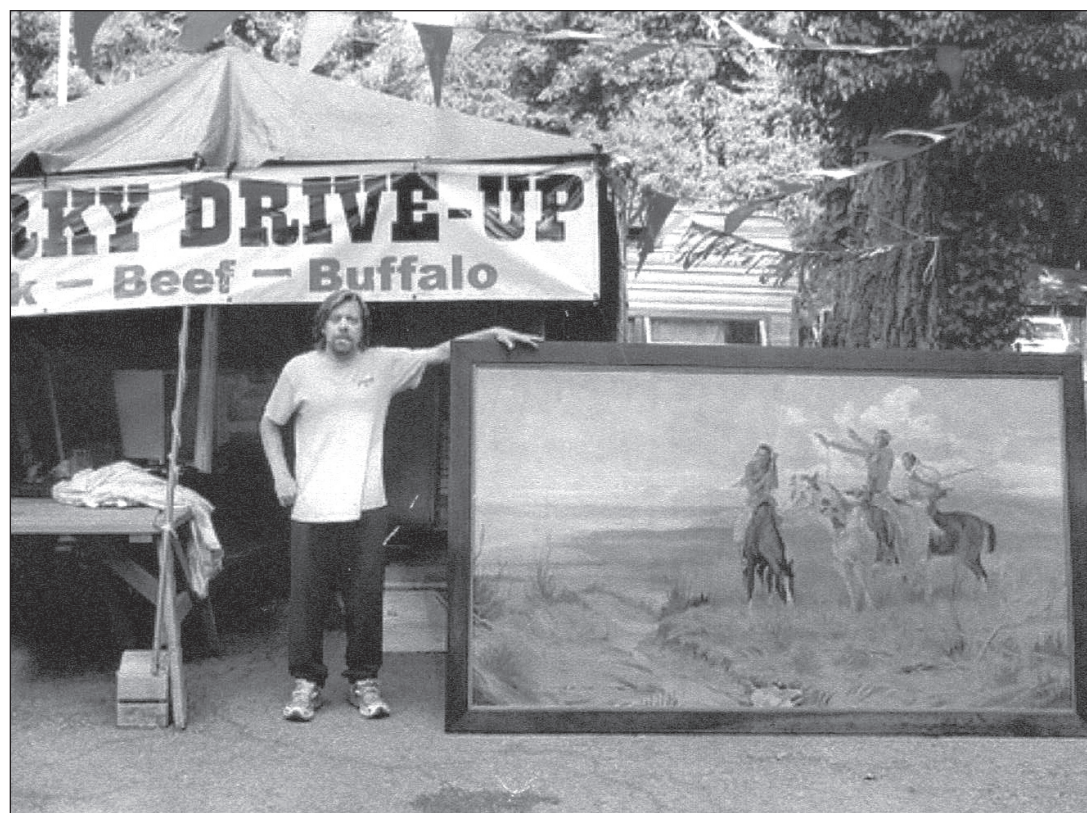
Survivors include a daughter, Tara D. Pozos of Las Vegas, Nevada; a son, Darren A. Webb of Modesto, California; a brother, David Webb of Chanute, Kansas; a half-sister, Marilyn Hardman of Aurora, Missouri; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Floyd "Smokey" Stone Uhl age 47 of Gasquet, Calif. died Thursday April 11, 2013.

Smokey was born in Marietta, Ga. on February 27, 1966. He moved to the area 35-years ago after his parents purchased seven beautiful acres on the California Oregon boarder on Hwy. 199. He was dearly loved by his entire family and everyone that knew him. Smokey was a kind and loving man who was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

He is survived by his wife Tonya and their four children, three sons Daniel 19, Cody 13 and Justin 1; and one daughter Kaleigh 6. One brother Grank Uhl-Salem, three sisters Dixie Uhl of San Rafael Calif, Dianna Champie of Cave Junction and Carole Gerughty of San Rafael Calif.

He was preceded in Death by his parents Franklyn and Johanna Uhl, A brother Marston "Johnny" Uhl and a sister Johanna "Stormy" Uhl.



Smokey Uhl and his Jerky stand at the Ore. Calif boarder.

Rivers ... Continued from A-1

Then on Saturday, the festival is "all about the kids." Children can participate in the exhibits from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and collect "passport stamps" to be entered in a raffle that awards prizes, including a new Huffy bike. Lunch items will be available for sale. From 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. participants can choose from number of field trip options that include hikes, tours, film screenings and more.

Festival Sponsors include Rusk Ranch Nature Center, Rogue Living, the Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District and the I.V. & Watershed Council, Siskiyou Mountain Club, the US Forest Service, Oregon Caves National Monument, Siskiyou Field Institute, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Forest Practices Working Group, LIVE Bioswale, Healing Hearts and Hooves, Oregon Department of Forestry, the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, the Williams Community Forest Project, Illinois Valley Arts Council, Siskiyou Alpaca, Young Master Gardeners Program, and the Illinois Valley Library. To learn more about the festival, check out the group's page on Facebook.

Read and Recycle

Save the date

April 26-27

Join the fun at the **Illinois Valley Rivers and Forests Festival**, April 26-27, 2013 in Cave Junction, Oregon.

The Illinois Valley Rivers and Forests Festival in Cave Junction is a hands-on, interactive environmental educational event designed for students in grades K-8 (adults are welcome too!) that celebrates our region's interconnected natural resources and inspires each of us to care for our environment.

April 27

Rock the Playground Saturday April 27th Dinner & Open Jam 4-6 p.m. Beats Work'n Band 6-9 p.m. At the Takilma

Community Bldg. (Dome School) To Raise FUNds for our community playground \$5 Presale Tickets \$10 at the Door

May 4

2013 ILLINOIS VALLEY KID'S CARE FAIR AND PET PARADE Saturday, May 4th 10:00 am - 1:00 p.m. Jubilee Park PET PARADE Registration 10:00- 11:15 Parade 11:30- 12:30 Don't forget your leash and to dress up your pet! SMALL PETS ONLY PLEASE

Mommy's Day Bingo with the Cave Junction Lions Club. Josephine County building in CJ doors open at 5 first game at 6. For more information call Cory at 541-592-4301.

May 5

FREE BIRDHOUSE BUILDING

Materials and guidance provided by Audubon. All are welcome! Methodist Church, 200 W. Watkins St., Cave Junction, 1 p.m., Sunday, May 5th.

Continual

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

IVHS Alumni needs members.

Any 70, 80 or 90's alums interested please call Ryan Nolan at 541-592-2156.



Join us for some delicious Biscuits & Sausage Gravy Served Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

OR

Join us for lunch featuring Taylor's Hot Dogs Also try our yummy Tuna or PB&J sandwich Served Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

115 SW G Street Grants Pass, Or
541-476-3463



Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by
W.H. Allthway, LLC
Daniel J. Mancuso, Publisher

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction OR 97523

Illinois Valley News is published at 221 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523 Telephone (541) 592-2541 FAX (541) 592-4330

Since 1937 periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction OR 97523 P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year in Josephine County - \$28.50
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$32.50
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$39.00

Illinois Valley News does not refund subscriptions. Remainder of subscription will be donated to the charity of your choice.

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