



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Over the past few months, I have noticed

a vehicle parked around town with plates that expired several years ago.

As I watch the vehicle, I notice that the man and woman who inhabit it have many visitors throughout the day. It doesn't take much to figure out what the lady and gentleman are up to.

I have contacted the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and the Rogue Area Drug Enforcement team (RADE). I have sent numerous photos of

the people who drive the truck along with other information about activity associated with the truck.

Two weeks ago while on the phone with OSP, I was told they couldn't do anything as the truck was on private property. When I explained what I do for a living and mentioned that I was going to write about the lack of concern on the part of OSP, the dispatcher said, "Good, do that.

Maybe you guys will pass the levy next time."

Yes, the dispatcher said that.

I called back to get her full name and was told by her supervisor (who would only give me her first name) that she, the supervisor, was on the line and that the dispatcher didn't say that. The supervisor went on to say that I would get into trouble if I repeated

my claim. Apparently she doesn't know me.

I suggested that I request the audio tape of the conversation and was told I couldn't get a copy. Apparently this OSP employee does not recognize the ORS statutes that cover public record laws.

My point in all this, is this: harvest time is coming up and I bet the RAID team will be all over the Valley busting

Medical Marijuana growers. While it seems taking medicine away from people is more important than busting meth and heroin dealers in the Valley.

I say this because not one person from any of the three agencies has contacted me to ask questions or follow up with me.

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

A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

I drove home from work this evening with an hour of daylight to spare, noting that the asphalt of Highway 199 was damp with recent precipitation. A line of electric orange snapped from the sky to the southeast, as I wound the turns of Sis's Gap. A few drops fell on the windshield, and I quietly urged, "C'mon, pour. Dump on us." By the time I pulled into Cave Junction, there had been six or seven lightning strikes, some snaking high and long across the dark, cloudy, horizon.

It has been a long summer, leaving the town smoky, with no post office, a closed lumber mill, and the loss of several individuals who had been part of the Valley for a long time. Some I knew, some I only felt like I knew, and some I didn't know at all.

One, I met during an EMT course at the fire station years ago, when I happened to

choose the seat across the aisle from the Valley blacksmith. He was quiet most of the time, but smiled like he knew something the rest of us hadn't stumbled onto yet. I didn't know then, the extent of his musical background, only that I was glad he was in the class. I saw him off and on over the years; sometimes at Taylor's, when there was a great band.

We also lost a man I had only nodded to in passing, but saw regularly for years, pedaling his bike back and forth from town, to his home in Takilma. Knowing he's not out there anymore, making his way, is its own loss.

I recently became acquainted with a woman in her 90s who had lived here sixty years. When I asked her on one occasion how it was back then, and had she liked it when she first moved here, she looked up and told me, "No. The first time I went to the store for eggs,

they only had duck eggs." She still seemed mildly exasperated by that, before continuing, "There was nothing here. Not like now." She stayed on, though, becoming a contributing member of the community, and taught her children to do the same. I will always be grateful to have known her, though it was brief.

I routinely drove by a local veterinarian, riding with who I assumed was one of his kids, one bike large, and the other smaller. They were always a mile or two up Caves Highway or down Laurel Road. Each time I passed them in my car, I pictured my own bike at home, and thought, "I should be doing that too."

A staggering moment was seeing the notice that one of our local kids, a young man of twenty-five, who had been my sons first friend back in kindergarten, had passed away. I still, and will always see him, climbing the

long branches of a pine tree down the hill from our house, his face among the needles, looking down from ten feet up. He was quiet, but had gone up that tree like he was born to climb it, the way only a child, with another six year old by his side, can.

These fires, the lingering smoke, and the recent run of thunder storms, seems a fitting end to an emotional summer. An editorial in last week's Illinois Valley News, found the publisher admitting that he was "sick and tired" of the fire, the heat, the smoke, that he preferred the season of cool and rain. I think he spoke for many. Raising the windows to hear rain filtering through the trees, or see heavy, gray clouds hovering in the hills, will seem a relief.

This season of fire and loss will eventually be behind us, but won't be forgotten. Nor will those we said goodbye to this summer.

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)

Save the salmon

The Coho salmon in the Illinois River watershed especially in the Deer Creek shed are in dire need of

water flows this summer. Many of us have noticed that the hatch and subsequent juvenile Coho populations in many tributaries of the Illinois River are the best it's been in many years if not decades. However, the streams are dropping and drying up fast and many thousands of young Coho have likely already succumbed to drying up streams. There are larger resident cut-throat trout and steelhead also threatened by drying up streams.

What would help the Coho, cut-throat, and young steelhead the most is if Illinois Valley residents conserved these scarce waters resources throughout the I.V., but especially in Deer Creek and its tributaries through this extremely dry year until some good rains fall.

Perhaps other streams around the valley have similar circumstances? If you do find young Coho land locked in drying streams call the Or-

gon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-826-8774 and request that they be moved to safe areas. Please do what you can to help save this irreplaceable resource and legacy.

The Coho are listed Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Fish and Wildlife have the Illinois River Run categorized as having a high risk of extinction.

Shannon Wilson
Selma, OR

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
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Save the date

Aug. 16-17

Yard sale coming up this Friday and Saturday. It will be the 16th and 17th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Safe House Alliance parking lot.

Aug. 17

"It's the Berries" on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at the RCC/Belt Building, Highway 199, Kerby, OR 31 vendors selling an assortment of items. You may find what you are looking.

From Apple pies to Lavender, horse tack, blackberry puff pastries, soaps, jams and jellies, teas, OSU Master Food Preservers Display, tools, collectibles, Indian art, Tupperware, beef raffle tickets, several fund-raising tables for non-profit groups, jewelry, embroidery demonstration, wood crafts, tools, American Legion BINGO, wood art, several variety items tables, So. Oregon Guild Studio

sale, strawberry shortcakes, hotdogs with chili, essentials oils, Watkins products, 'Classy Kats', History of Berries in the Valley and please don't forget the Creepy Crust mixed Berry cobblers.

Aug. 17

Please come to a benefit concert with Joanne Rand on Saturday August 17th at the Takilma Community Building at 8pm. Healing Herbal Tea and Desserts will be sold to off-set losses of postponing this summer's Herbal Gathering.

Admission \$10-20, no one turned away for lack of money, so give what you can!

We will be singing to appease the fire spirits, singing to heal the land, and singing for healing all who have been touched by the fire's breath. Join this healing event as we celebrate life and renewal! Walk away inspired and full of life!

Aug. 19th

Precious Dirt-Monthly Pesticide Meeting. On this month's agenda- A Pesticide Bill of Rights. Other topics pending

NEW LOCATION: Commune I Tea 148 S. Redwood Hwy, Cave Junction - Next to Taylor's Sausage. Commune I Tea will offer tea, coffee and 'goodies'- for a fee. Doors open at 6:00, meeting begins at 6:30 - 8:30

Aug. 20

American Red Cross Blood Drive Where: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1969 Williams Hwy. in Grants Pass, Thursday, August 22, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

We would like to invite everyone to come out and support our community .

Aug. 20-21

Two free training sessions will take place next week for Illinois River Forks State Park volunteers. Participants can choose to attend either Tuesday, August 20 or Wednesday, August 21. Both sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon and will cover basic policies and procedures. Each session will begin with an orientation at a location to be determined and end with a field component at the park.

Training is necessary in order to fulfill Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) legal requirements.

Aug. 29

TIME FOR TALENT! The TALENT SHOW is just a few weeks away. The I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival will again host a TALENT SHOW (amateurs only) and cash prizes will be awarded the winners of each age group. Don't forget to sign up by August 29. For more information and/or to sign up, please call Donna, (541) 596-2719 or Sue, (541) 592-2252.

Sept. 28

Saddle up! BCHO Poker Ride, Sept. 28 in the Illinois Valley. Call 541-597-1806 for more details.

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