



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO, Publisher

Well, it seems that Josephine County Commissioner Simon Hare has found himself in a bit of a quandary. In addition to being under investigation by the Oregon Department of Justice for his fun night out on the town back in May, he is also showing signs of bizarre behavior during the county’s weekly business meetings. Doing a total flip-flop on the solid waste ordinances, he seems to have forgotten that the commission’s business meetings are taped. In one meeting, Hare says that the county has been working on the waste ordinances since he took office and in another he

accuses Commissioner Cherryl Walker of lying when she answered a question that it was brought up by Hare in the first place. I have no issue with someone changing his or her mind when new information is brought to light, but I fail to see or hear what it is that brought about Hare’s sudden change on this issue. Somebody once told me that “character is everything.” In a public figure, it is paramount. Thank you for picking up this week’s paper, Go Cougs! ~ djm

A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

It had been a stormy ride, flying over gray waters as whitecaps blew across the massive surface below. We descended from light blue into a cloud mass, with nothing but white outside the windows, and emerged finally, over a landscape of trees and little else, touching down in Ketchikan, Sitka, and ultimately, Juneau. The following morning, under the awning of an airport hotel, a green minivan, rusted fender hanging precariously, sat with the engine running. The driver, who stood outside the area taxi, looked up startled, as I approached. “I think I’m your ride” I offered, to which he quizzed, “What is your name?” There ensued a question/answer seesaw of where I would sit, front or back, “What is your pref-

erence?” he asked. I shrugged, “I don’t care.” He reworded, “Where would you like to sit?” to which I reaffirmed, “I really don’t care.” “You really don’t care?” He wondered. I sat behind where there was “more leg room” and he glanced at my paper coffee cup, worrying, “You will not spill your drink, right?” Once on the road, an attempt at small talk, “Have you lived in Juneau long?” brought the exact response, “Thirty-three years, six months, and eight days.” We wound through the dark damp roads between the city and the harbor. From time to time he would call out, “Look at the sky” or “Look at the river” Once, it was, “Look at the bridge.” As I peered through the

window into pitch black, he turned his head, checking “Did you look?” He intoned more than once, “I knew you before you were born.” I thought it was just a quote he was throwing out, as he followed it up with, “Do you know what I mean?” I affirmed that I did, but had stopped listening, and wished that I hadn’t left the pepper spray in the suitcase in the back. I began to fear I wouldn’t make it to the ferry terminal when his phone rang and he launched into a story about passing a deer that morning. On his way back, it lay dead on the side of the road, and he had stopped to help another man drag it away. “Yes it was awful but I couldn’t just leave it there” he explained to the person on the other end, and I wondered if

it was standard operating procedure for taxi drivers to talk on cell phones while driving. Relief flooded as we turned into the lit parking lot at the harbor and encountered other people. Day 1 in Alaska had begun. Though Juneau is the capital, its population is just 30,000 and it has a small town feel. Its geography marks it as northwest, and like many population centers in our region that don’t qualify as metropolitan areas, it shares the characteristics of many towns, including Cave Junction. It is surrounded by mountains, has rivers running through or around it, hosts lakes nearby, and interesting people as residents. Forty-five minutes after tipping the driver, I leaned into the railing

of Alaska’s marine vessel Taku, the sun still not up, the white expanse of Mendenhall glacier dominating the peaks above town, morning light beginning to cast a silver sheen on the dark waters of the bay. Later, cold wind blowing on a rainy deck, brown alpaca cap from Takilma keeping my head warm, we sailed up Alaska’s inner passage toward Skagway and North America’s deepest fjord, Lynn Canal. I thought of the driver I had escaped, I thought of home. I looked at the water, the mountains, and the sky, and had no idea what was coming. Alaska’s next small town was somewhere on the horizon.

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Letters to the Editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

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(Editor’s Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers)

Watershed Health for Communities

In my view, Watershed Health for Communities is not a real consideration of the DeFazio, Walden “Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act” HR1526. Putting over a Million Acres of Public Lands, that belongs to all Americans, into a trust for Big Corporations, to appropriate our resources to maximize their profits, via ‘questionable’ oversight by the Fed and State, with their shutdowns, in trade for the few jobs we would get. The only sustainability that is produced, for Americans, is non-accountability. A square

look, is needed, at the track record of the “boom & bust” economic cycles. Each one inflicting more degradation to our “Natural Treasurers”, watersheds, rights as citizens, and what we truly value as Oregonians. It is unfortunate that we are held hostage by the designers of this corporate ruled culture we live in. They have mastered the stripping away of our rights, and for communities, compromising our lives and livelihood for their profit. They have monopolized our economy, exploited and controlled our governments, leave us with their limited “in their Box” choices. Ones we would

not normally or morally chose to make when given another option. Like allowing tons of herbicide chemicals being administered, in our Watersheds, via Big Timber and Big Government, on roadways and Clear Cuts here in the Illinois Valley. Our clean water, our children, our health and our welfare literally hangs in the balance. It is not just their fault, but all of ours, when we don’t act or do our part, speak out for a better process. But then we have been keenly educated to be submissive, powerless. Yes, there is a better way. We nearly passed the Law Enforcement Levy, though I was not an avid proponent,

it demonstrated real willingness. We can do better. Summon more cooperation within our local communities and neighborhoods. We recently discussed in our Neighborhood Watch Meeting a range of multi-tiered funding strategies. This brings me to another initiative, the Pesticide Free Bill of Rights ordinance just registered with the County last week by a group of citizens. A petition will be circulating. In line with taking our American freedom back and building up a community process, many rural communities back East utilize Town Halls and General Assemblies. I’m doing my best to get our support going

for this. It’s really working for them. We have to give up hope that the Government will do the right thing. We have to do it ourselves. As we have concluded in the Neighborhood Watch. Willingness is the key. Think of your kids, and what you will say, when they ask, what did you do about it? Wisely conserving resources to support a better future. May your day be all it can be and find you smiling back at it. You’ll find me at cmec@cavenet.com, let’s talk and get together with our neighbors. - Guenter Ambron Cave Junction

Save the date

Oct. 10
Evergreen SMART Kick-Off Meeting next Thursday, Oct. 10 at 10:15 in the school library.

Oct. 17
The Valley Girls Quilt Club needs help moving tables at the Senior Center on the following days. With ten people it should only take about 30 minutes:
October 17 (Thursday) 8:00 a.m. - EVENT SETUP: Move tables and chairs out of Senior Center so the event can be set up.

Oct. 18-19-20
The Quilt Show will be on October 18-19-20 from 10:00-4:00. Last year about 600 people attended. The club raised about \$6,000 last year, which was contributed to local youth programs. This year’s proceeds will go to the Library and Boys & Girls Club.
If you can help please contact Carol Dickson to let her know what days you are available: mcdickson@frontiernet.net 541-592-8521

Oct. 19
October 20 (Sunday) 5:00p.m.-QUILT SHOW EVENT ENDS: Move tables and chairs back into Senior Center. If you can help please contact Carol Dickson to let her know what days you are available: mcdickson@frontiernet.net 541-592-8521

Oct. 19
GRAVEYARD TOUR
The Graveyard Tour will have two tours; at 4 and 6 p.m. Advanced tickets will be \$10.00 for the first person, \$5.00 for each additional person. Tickets at the gate are \$10.00 each person. Family discounts will be available. Advanced tickets can be purchased online at www.jcohistorical.org or in person at JCHS Research Library, 512 SW 5th Street.
For more information, please call the Historical Society at 541-479-7827.

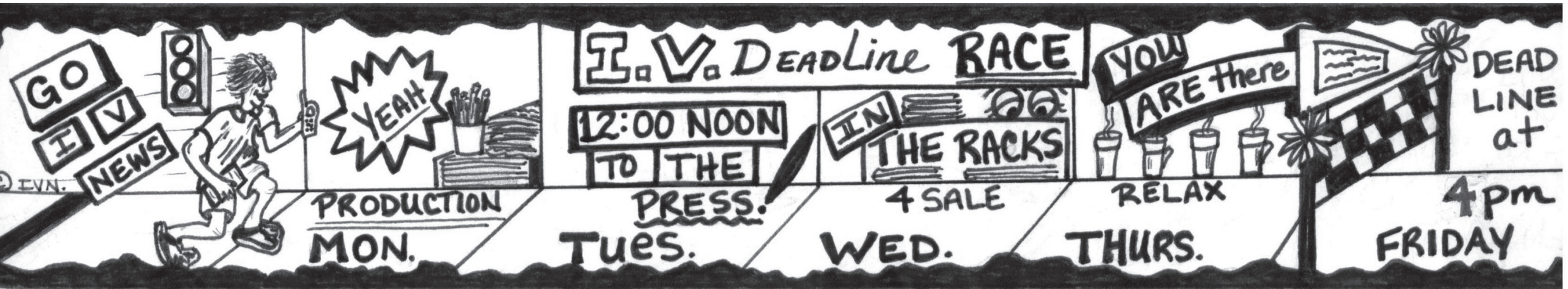
OCT. 19 & 20
Saturday and Sunday: Come to ARTOBERFEST @ the RCC building in Kerby and enjoy CHOCOLATE CROISSANTS or PUMPKIN PIE at the Nature Center Nibbles booth!

OCT. 21
Precious Dirt will not be having a 3rd Monday pesticide meeting this month.
Instead, they are deferring future meetings to the Freedom from Pesticides Alliance.

OCT. 22
Freedom from Pesticides Alliance is offering a Community Rights Workshop - with Paul Cienfuegos
Do you ever wonder why it seems that we have no control over decisions that affect our quality of life?
Wonder no more! Paul Cienfuegos works full-time in

the fast-growing national movement to reign in corporate power at the local level.
Tuesday, October 22nd, at the County Bldg, Cave Junction 5:30-9:00 p.m. 102 S Redwood Hwy, Cave Junction 97523 (Parking and entrance @ rear of bldg)

Nov. 2 & 3
Registration is now open for booth space and classes at FiberMania 2013, which will take place November 2 & 3 at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. Fiber producers and artists from Oregon, California, and Washington have taken part in this annual event over the last three years. Booth spaces are 10’ X 10’ and are available for \$75.00. Classes have various fees depending on the class. There will be classes in spinning, weaving, tatting, needlework, and knitting.
In eras long past, women spun fibers of all kinds to make yarn. Traditionally, men then wove the yarn to make cloth, and women knitted or crocheted the yarn into sweaters, scarves, mittens, etc. The resurgence of these crafts in recent years has created a need for a place to acquire the products and to learn new skills; thus the start of FiberMania. This is the place to begin your Christmas shopping with beautiful handcrafted items, pick up your needed fiber arts supplies, learn a new craft, and make new friends. For more information and to register go to www.fibermania.org or you may telephone Diana Shultz at 541-218-1169. FiberMania is sponsored by the State of Jefferson Alpaca Association.



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