



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO, Publisher

I love it when it snows. Not so much the snow itself, but the actual snowfall. It's so peaceful. Then again, I am the same guy who says he likes rain because its cleansing. I may need to seek help about my precipitation fetish!

Growing up in Illinois, snow, sub-zero temperatures and

icy streets were the norm. The standard was to have at least one snowfall of a few inches by December 1. After that, it was all downhill. Normally, at the end of January, we would have a week of sun and high temps that would melt most of the snow off, leaving only the piles along the street that were basically black from the street traffic. This short-lived thaw only set up for the monster February snow falls that would last until Easter depending on the year.

As a kid, snow days were rare, mostly caused by the wind drifting snow across the barren fields waiting for the next season of corn or soybeans. I remember snow drifts that reached the top of our house. We were lucky enough to have the head of streets and sanitation living across the way from our place so our street was one of the roads that was plowed first. There was a cul-de-sac on our street and the plows would push the snow up into a giant mountain. This snow mound was used as a make shift snow hill that we would use trashcan lids to slide down. Snowball fights, which usually started out friendly, generally left someone stomping down the street in tears.

I remember one time my sister was pushing me on a sled

down the sidewalk and we hit a chunk of ice. The sled came to a halt bringing my sister down on top of me which, in turn, pushed my face into the ice on the ground. This unfortunate event chipped my front tooth. Years later, I fell on a water-ski ramp and knocked that tooth and a few others out. The upside is I now have a smile without that chip in my tooth.

On Saturday, Laura was driving to Grants Pass to pick up the boys. She decided to take my car and I almost suggested that she not, as its rear-wheel drive. Coulda, shoulda, woulda! Anyway, she took a spin in Sis's Gap and had the luck to spin off the road into someone's driveway. How she avoided the deep drop-offs and no oncoming traffic is a miracle. Ice strikes again. This time, the upside is I had a little dent that bothered me and now my car, like my teeth, will look new again.

Don't forget the tree lighting at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. On Sunday, after mass at Saint Patrick's of the Forest, the annual Youth Christmas Program will take place at 1:30 p.m. Soup, bread and dessert will be served after mass and prior to the show. All are welcome.

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

A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

I lit a candle for the valley last night. It was at the Pavilion in Jubilee Park. Two stainless steel, patio heaters stood, glowing orange in the middle of the open air shelter, as fifty or so, huddled nearby, in gloves, hats and scarves. One woman wrapped herself in a wool blanket.

In the kitchen there was coffee, hot chocolate and soup, and a volunteer circulated with a pot, keeping cups full. A few firemen in heavy canvas coats milled around, visiting, before abruptly leaving for their vehicle, and exiting

the parking lot. A young woman from my son's class sang softly, on a small stage. I had been speaking briefly with a lady next to me, exchanging where we lived, and how long we had been here, when I found out she was the grandmother of one of the recent homicide victims. Telling her I was sorry didn't seem enough.

As the refrain of Sarah McLachlan's, "I Will Remember You" echoed from the front, I looked away, to the tall evergreens of the park, and imagined the lights of the ball field

on summer nights, of people carrying hot dogs and blue Pepsi cups, of the parade of players on Little League opening day. I looked back on thirty years of Labor Day Festivals, of kids climbing greased poles and scouring piles of straw for money, of bringing our son to a make-shift skate park.

A handful of people stood and talked about why the valley is a good place to live. A young business owner urged us to come downtown, to walk around, be a presence. A worker at a

warming center spoke of caring for all in the valley. A local man announced he would be collecting signatures to fund law enforcement, and the Sherriff praised a park created by hard work, and families. Some expressed frustration over how our community is perceived.

I watched residents striking matches, helping each other get small flames glowing. I lit a candle for the valley last night, and hoped the cold would relent soon.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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541-592-4110

Obituaries

Donna Azure, age 54, of Cave Junction, died Monday, December 2, 2013 at her home. Services will be held in Summer 2014. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Please sign the family guest book at www.since1928hull.com.

Remembrances may be made to Lovejoy Hospice, 939 SE 8th Street, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526.

Donna was born April 1, 1959 in Portland, Oregon to Stanley & Lee Azure. She graduated from high school in Molalla, Oregon. In 1978 she worked for Sam Walton in Tennessee at the original Walmart. In 1983 she moved to

Cave Junction. She attended Rogue Community College and earned an Associate's degree. She most recently worked for the U.S. Forestry Department as a firefighter until she medically retired after a breast cancer diagnosis.

Donna collected seashells, ocean glass, rocks with holes, and blue glass, all of which she decorated her garden.

Survivors include her companion, Robert Hartline of Cave Junction, Oregon; her mother, Lee Haynes of Cave Junction, Oregon; three sisters, Mary Farley of Grants Pass, Oregon, Jeanne McConnell of Hermiston, Oregon, and Kristine Roberts of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father.



artwork by Kiana Stiles

Christmas Program by the Youth of Saint Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church
Reverend William Holtzinger, Pastor
Sunday, December 15th - 1:30 p.m.
Offering soup, bread and dessert after Mass prior to program in the Elliott Hall.
All are welcome!

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)

MJ Tax Act

Thanks to Dan for his informative commentary piece on Cannabis, Ken LeGaux's, and the follow up 'home run' LTE on hemp by Leo Goodman, superb.

In the mid 1600s Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania Assemblies passed legislation requiring every farmer to grow Hemp and that it be exchanged as legal tender. Today China

is the #1 grower of hemp with over 1 million acres in production. Canada is at 50,000 acres, with net profits of \$250 per acre, 2012. Fifty eight percent of Americans 'back' legalizing Marijuana, says Huffington Post.

Dupont, was the one that bankrolled the film "Reefer Madness" (looks like the Feds did) and together with William Hearst, who had extensive timber holdings in N. Calif., crafted the media campaign and lobbied in the "1937 Marihuana Tax Act". But before this, in 1930, this cartel helped create the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, installed its head, a Dupont banker, who later aided in creating the Boggs Act (1952) and the Narcotics Control Act (1956) making MJ/Hemp a class one substance after the MJ Tax Act was repealed as unconstitutional.

The MJ Tax Act was the nailing of the lid to the coffin of the Agrarian Populist Movement which stood to free America from the grips of the Big Banking Cartels that came back into power after the Civil War.

Liquidating Lincoln's US government issued 'Green Backs', a debt free

currency. It's a compelling story, few know it. When you see a mock up green bill with a Marijuana leaf on it, of Lincoln, Andrew Jackson or Thomas Jefferson you might find yourself inspired to sing a Bob Marley tune, like "Get-up, Stand-up" or "Tomorrow's People". A good place to capture some of this striking history is a film called "The Secret of OZ" by Bill Still. Marley isn't in it though, but you will hear a real cool version of "Some Where Over the Rainbow". I hope you let it sink in. If you don't have internet to find it, I'll loan you my copy.

I have some other stuff to add to this on MJ - regarding the Sheriff, growing on County Lands, and what Art Robinson said about growers. With permission I'll post it at a later date. Wide spread approval and support is growing for this Devil Weed as Dan puts it. And maybe we can coax Waves, he's the man, to write something. Ok ... may your day be all it can be and find you smiling back at it. Peace.

Guenter Ambron
Cave Junction

Save The Date

Dec. 11

The Valley Girls Quilting Club will award proceeds from their recent quilt show to both Josephine Community Library - IV Branch and Boys & Girls Club, 2:30 p.m. at the IV Library.

Dec. 14

The annual **Cave Junction Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** will take place at 5 p.m. in the Junction Inn parking lot. Drop by for some caroling and fun!

Dec. 13 & 14

IRVAC Presents the **3rd Annual Artisans' Holiday Faire** at the I.V. Senior Center, 520 E. River Street. 4 to 8 p.m. Dec

13; 10 to 4 p.m. Dec 14. Hand-crafted gift show, warm holiday ambiance, live music, good food and Santa noon to 4 on Saturday. 541-592-4444.

Dec. 15

St. Patrick's Youth Christmas Program, Sunday, December 15 at 1:30 (after Mass), soup, bread and dessert prior to program. All are welcome.

Dec. 16

Precious Dirt Pesticide Meeting Monday Dec. 16th @ the County Bldg 102 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, 97523 6:00 -6:30 Holiday Treats & Hot Beverages 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. www.PreciousDirt.org

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dan@illinois-valley-news.com

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office@illinois-valley-news.com

Advertising / Composition
Dan Mancuso
dan@illinois-valley-news.com

Mailroom - Millie Watkins

Office Manager-Laura Mancuso
office@illinois-valley-news.com

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