



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Happy New Year! With 2013 in the rearview mirror, I am optimistic about the year ahead. Over the past year I have noticed what I believe to be good indicators that we are moving in the right direction.

The closing of our largest and oldest employer, Rough &

Ready Lumber Company, was partially offset with the addition of a second shift at the Taylor's Sausage Inc. I'm told a new call center is in the works and that should add an additional 20 jobs. Many new stores opened downtown, like Communi Tea, Lady Thyme Herbs, IV Trophy, Withem's Gun Shop, the Soulshine Studio and Diggin Livin.

Some older businesses have found value in the Illinois Valley News and began advertising. They include Caveman Heating, Gooseberries, IV Building Supply, IV Guns and Ammo and Dave's Outdoor Power Equipment. Please let them know how you appreciate their help in underwriting your community newspaper.

Our staff changed quite a bit with Darcy's departure to the Springfield Times where she is now the editor. Annette, Judy and Jenna have stepped up and done a fine job for you this year. We also added some other writers like Mary Halvorsen and Michelle and Ray Smith. Roger Brandt and Greg Walters have submitted quite a few interesting historical articles along with our awesome find of "Winding Trails" by Al Hobart.

I would be remiss if I left out Kindi's "History of the Hip-

pies in Takilma." This started out as a whim of mine that turned out to be so much more. I asked for a four-part series and we ended up with over 25 installments. Kindi turned the series into a book and it should be on sale in the next few months.

Those who say that newspapers are going down, are dead wrong when it comes to the community journalism front. Your paper made great strides in 2013 and is heading into 2014 stronger than it has been in years. I attribute this to our focus on you and what is important to the readers here in the Valley. Keep in mind that we have a wide range of people in the Valley who value different things. We strive to keep that in mind and give a little of something to everyone. If you don't see something that you would like for us to cover, feel free to let me know.

My new year's promise is to keep working hard and stay focused on the task at hand, bringing you the best hometown paper I can. While I may miss the mark from time to time, I feel you have a great "little paper" and I will continue to persevere and try to improve it each week.

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

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)

Some of my times

When I moved to Grants Pass I was truly impressed with the way things were. Everyone was really friendly, always waved, neighbors at ready to help their neighbors. And the beat went on.

Then I met a few folks around town like the Building Suppliers and my second life really took off. Then came the misc. jobs. Then came the church. Then came the JOCO Sheriff Posse. And the Jail and Prisoner Transport. Then a wonderful Sheiff by the name of Bill Brant, plus Mark Dixon, Dave Koler. He was a great man along with Chief of Police in Grants Pass, Norm Hedgpath. They treated me really well. But some time back in the 1970s I began to hear some really bad things about the Valley. Danger at the least. But, not from the sheriff nor the chief. But other folks. Bad place to be, drugs, murder etc.

I began patrolling with deputy Joe Dykes. A great man along with Deputy John Handcode. Another great man and many more. They were all enlightened with the truth about the Valley. Not as bad as I've been told at first. Next, I got the job as Cave Junction City Police Officer. I quickly met some really nice folks. Beginning with, yep Fred Krause. Wow, a really long story there. And, Trefathen, Knowland, Wolf and sooo many more.

Finally, I moved here and I'll probably

never leave. What a great place to live. This Valley is filled with sooo many great folks. What a blessing to be here and being part of the history. Just think about the way things were back then. So many folks working and making pretty fair wages. And, oh yeah, the sound and sight of those one and two log loads, knowing we are going to get some really good lumber from it and not a lot of waste. Don't get me wrong now, I don't like clear cutting, but we now have a better control for re-prod after clear cutting. Disease free trees and faster growth, etc. And that's a really good thing.

It's so sad that the mill had to shut down. I truly feel bad for those who got laid off. They must be going through hell now. The mill not only supported those workers. But, also where they spent their wages. You know, gas, diesel, food, doctors, rent and so much more.

I wish I had the answer. And maybe I do. Although, some may not agree.

Vote them out of office. And next time vote, pay attention to who your vote is for. This is your country, act like it. Stand up. Get off your _____. Get serious. Let's take America

back.

Look back at the past when parents and grandparents were honorable...they taught children the "hard facts of life" i.e. earn your keep, think, dream, listen quietly to wisdom. That way you have an upper hand to success.

But, these days we're taught to be politically correct. But, the political chumps "for the most parts" don't have a clue to what really is the right and correct way to raise children. They don't teach anything, but money, money, money! There's more to life and happiness than that. But, we all drive Chevys, Fords, etc. But that's our choice. It doesn't mean we can't be good friends and good neighbors.

Justin Levitt and other community members showed the peace and love of America as it should be today and I have the peaceful photo of the I.V. News to this day hanging in my office as a continual reminder of peace as it should be today.

Thank you one and all.

Ken LeGaux
Selma

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Obituaries

Wayne Dussault a long time resident of O'Brien, Oregon died December 19, 2013 of a massive stroke. Wayne was born in San Francisco, California in 1941 and he was 72 years old.

Wayne was owner/operator of Twins Pines Restaurant, Motel and RV Park in O'Brien, Oregon. He worked at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and also owned two businesses in Vallejo, California.

Wayne loved to play golf, play with his cats and dogs, go horseback riding, and tinker around the house and yard. He enjoyed listening to country music.

Wayne is survived by his beloved wife Brandy Dobler of O'Brien, Oregon; daughter Tammy Beck; son Dan Dussault both of Vacaville, California; three grandchildren, Casey Beck, Richie Beck and Eden Hey. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother. Wayne will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Roberta Ann (Bert) Brittain "Bertie" crossed over on Dec. 11, 2013 following an ongoing battle with pneumonia, congestive heart failure and COPD.

She was born in Corvallis on Feb 15, 1958. She had lived in Bend for years before moving to I.V. in the early 80s. She enjoyed playing her guitar, writing songs and "Dancing the night away" for the better part of her life.

Bertie moved to Takilma and raised her 3 children. She enjoyed summer BBQs, making dinner and baking goodies for friends and neighbors a.k.a. "family." She was a master crafter and loved to make beautiful things. Bertie loved making dream catchers and "goodies for everyone around her."

Bertie is survived by her 2 daughters, Molly and Trinity and son Jake; brother Wilber; 3 sisters Marie, Helen and Janis; and several grandchildren.

She was a sweet soul and will be deeply and dearly missed for a long time to come. We love you Bertie, you are a heaven bound sister, God Bless.

A celebration of Bert's life will be handled through John Scott, 541-291-1390 and arrangements will be pending for Feb-

ruary, 15, 2014 (her birthday). All are welcome to come share the stories and memories with us all.

*David, we miss you now, our hearts are sore.
As time goes by, we miss you more.
Your loving smile, your gentle face.
No one can fill your vacant place.*

3/16/1942 - 12/30/2006



We love and miss you.
Susan, Betty, Justin,
Family and Friends.

The Illinois Valley News would like to wish everyone a very safe New Year. Thank you all so much for everything this past year.

-DAN, LAURA, KEVIN, JENNA, KIMBERLY, ANNETTE, MILLY, KIMBERLIE, NINA, DELANE, KINDI JUDY & G-DUB

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.

News - Dan Mancuso
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Circulation - Kimberly Potter
office@illinois-valley-news.com

Advertising / Composition
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Mailroom - Millie Watkins

Office Manager-Laura Mancuso
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DEADLINES:
News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcements and Letters
5 P.M. FRIDAYS

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