



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

A recent topic of debate has been vandalism versus art. As many of you have noticed in recent months, we have seen some graffiti on a few buildings in town, along with the bathrooms at Jubilee Park and the new bathrooms on federal land

at Forks Park. I mention that it's federal land because destruction of government property carries a much harsher punishment for offenders.

A group of people in our community feel that there has not been enough done by the police to capture and bring to justice the persons responsible for the hit-and-run incident that took the life of Rab Calvin and Jarrod Houston. That, along with the murder of Aaron Clouser, has many in the community shaken up.

One person in particular feels that by spray painting local business and bath houses, they will keep Mr. Houston's death in the forefront. By keeping his name out there, maybe the family will get closure to help them deal with their loss.

What it boils down to for me is this, painting a building that is not yours, without the permission of the owner is by law called vandalism. Yes the work may be art, but with out prior consent it's a crime.

Like many of you, I lived in large cities and saw graffiti on

a regular basis. I, for one, really don't want our town to look like one big rail car. I don't want our Forks Park shut down because of vandalism. Of course, I also want the people responsible for not stopping after hitting two of our community members and murdering another to face the consequences of their actions.

There are other more positive ways to keep Mr. Houston's name alive and keep pressure on the police to solve this.

I have received almost a dozen letters with photos of Mr. Houston asking for help in solving the mystery of who was driving the vehicle that took his life. While not nearly as dramatic as a huge painting on a wall in town, it is much more personal and shows me the writer cared enough to choose a photo and write a letter explaining who they are and what Mr. Houston meant to them. It carries a lot more weight for me than graffiti.

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, includ-

ing statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers)

Farewell

Our Post Master has retired. We wish to thank you for your years of service with them and for ending your career here in the Valley.

Your hard work and that of your great

crew during this past year of (Fire and 2 moves) stress is very appreciated.

Best Wishes for your New Year and retirement. I'm sure the whole community feels the same.

Nora and Lou Trujillo
Cave Junction

Obituaries

Gary Douglas Trammell, age 60, of Selma, died Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

His life will be celebrated at a memorial in early summer. Interment will be at Eagle Point National Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.since1928hull.com.

Gary was born January 19, 1953 in Medford, Oregon to James and Muriel Trammell. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1972 and served in the 10th Security Police Squadron, 10th Tactical Recon Wing. In the years following his service he moved back to Oregon and pursued a broad spectrum of professional activities working as video producer, sound-engineer, ultralight pilot, musician, firefighter and luthier. In 1990 he settled in Selma, Oregon. He was a devoted member of the volunteer fire department in the Illinois Valley and became the battalion chief of stations 2 and 5. He was responsible for the training of many firefighters and was awarded officer of the year on multiple occasions for his exemplary service. Gary was directly responsible for saving many lives and homes in the Valley and exhibited excellent leadership in high risk situations. He also worked as a wildland firefighter for the US Forest Service battling forest fires in the Pacific Northwest. Gary was an active member of the Veterans Center in Grants Pass where he was well known and friend to many.

Music was the focal point of Gary's life beginning in his

teen years as a member of the band "The 3rd Sound". Following his time as a firefighter he focused on writing and recording music, building and repairing guitars, and inventing innovative tone systems for electric guitars. He loved living in the forest and enjoyed all the area wildlife, as well as his domestic pet family.

In addition to his parents, survivors include his wife of 25 years, Mary Trammell, son Ian Trammell of Clayton, North Carolina, stepchildren, Sam Perkins of Portland, Oregon, Jacob Perkins of Wellington, New Zealand, and Rachel Perkins of New York, New York, as well as grandchildren, Darian, Adrian, and Aiden Trammell, Max Sadock, Asher Perkins, and Willa Perkins, sisters Sheri Szabo of Minnesota and Carol Quakenbush of Medford, Oregon.

Of immeasurable service to his country and community, Gary was a compassionate man of many skills and accomplishments. He was much loved and respected will be sorely missed.

Celestine "Cel" Schmitz, age 89, of Grants Pass, died Monday, December 30, 2013 at Redwood Terrace.

A memorial service will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 4, 2014 at St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church in Cave Junction. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., 350 Los Ranchitos Road, San Rafael,

California 94903.

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

Celestine was born July 18, 1924 in Seneca, Kansas to William & Alice Schmitz. At 16 years old, he started working in the grocery industry. He graduated from Seneca High School in Seneca, Kansas in 1941. In 1956 he married Marilyn Anne Wittner in San Carlos, California. From 1960 to 1965 he owned and operated a grocery store, Cel's Handy Pantry in Red Bluff, California. From 1965 to 1970 he owned and operated The Hilt Store in Hilt, California. In 1970 he retired and moved from Hilt to Cave Junction. In 2006 he moved from Cave Junction to Grants Pass.

He was a member of the Lions Club in Cave Junction where he was the Sight and Blind committee chair; Elks Club in Red Bluff, California and he attended St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church in Cave Junction.

Celestine was a sports fan and especially enjoyed baseball and football. He had two guide dogs that he enjoyed. He loved big bands and especially spending time with his wife.

Survivors include two daughters, Dianne Videtto of Fullerton, California and Denise Olson of Grants Pass; one brother, Roger Schmitz of Kansas City, Missouri and four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Preceding him in death was his wife, Marilyn Schmitz in 1993; three sisters and five brothers.

Merl F. Winter, 90, of Cave Junction, died Saturday, December 28, 2013 in Grants Pass, Oregon with his daughter by his side.

Graveside services were held on Friday, January 3, 2014 at Eagle Point National Cemetery. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

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

He was born on January 15, 1923 in Midland, South Dakota. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps August 20, 1945 to April 24, 1946. He met the love of his life on February 14th, 1946. On December 14, 1946 in Carson City, Nevada, he married Corinne "Kim" Cantua. Together they spent 59 years of wonderful life adventures. He was an owner and operator of Dependable Welding and Machine Works in Stockton, California for 20 years. He was also known to always have a Peterbilt truck throughout his life. In 1995 he retired and moved to Cave Junction, Oregon.

He loved flying his airplanes and riding his motorcycles. After retirement he enjoyed time in Southern Oregon.

Special thank you to Noel Lesiecki and Jane Larnie for the loving care they gave Merl.

Survivors include daughters Lisa Winter of Linden, California; Max Flint of Fisher, Indiana; and Beverly Strong of South Dakota; three sisters, Florence Wheeler of Sioux

Falls, South Dakota; Mary Literal of Othello, Washington and Kay Greenley of Portland, Oregon; a brother Bud Winter of Cave Junction, Oregon; eight grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife Corinne "Kim"; daughter Dia Winter; son Bill Winter; brothers Dolan and Clifford Winter; parents Peter and Elizabeth Winter,

Dixie Lee (Reed)

Canfield, age 76, of Cave Junction, died Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Highland House Nursing & Rehabilitation Center after a long bout with lung cancer.

No services are planned at her request. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

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

Dixie was born June 8, 1937 in Brawley, California to Fred Alvin & Virginia McClain Reed Chalfant. She attended grade school in El Cajon, California, Grossmont High School District in San Diego, California and completed the Moving On Program at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass, Oregon.

Dixie loved making arts and crafts and collecting western art, boots, purses, clothing and antiques. Western music was her favorite and she collected old records, eight track tapes, cassette tapes and CD's. She designed and made her own doll clothes out of old silk slips and scrap material. Dixie loved roses and made beauti-

ful roses out of satin and silk ribbon, leather and even bathroom tissue, her favorite being leather roses.

Her friend, Jerry West wrote this about her: A sweet spring rose has wilted in the fall. She was of kind heart and soul and was loved by all and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her friend, Jerry West of Cave Junction, Oregon; two daughters, Jamee Lee Young of Lakeside, California and Suzie Lockwood of Quinlin, Texas; a son, John Turman of El Cajon, California; a sister Virginia Lee "Ginny" (Reed) Culver of Kerby, Oregon; a brother, Michael Chalfant of Sun City, California; grandchildren, Josh Mathern, Jason Mathern, Jonah Mathern all of Nevada; Rickie Lockwood, Travis Lockwood and Kristle Lockwood all of Texas; Keri Young, Briana Turman, Ryan Turman and Jennifer Mortenson all of California; great grandchildren, Alyssa Mathern, Airanna Mathern and Caige Mathern all of Nevada; Justice Mathern Lockwood and Kaiden Lockwood both of Texas and Steven Jepsen of California; nieces and nephews, Vicki Lyn Culver of Oregon; Andrea Reed, Victor Culver and Kent Reed all of California and Randy Reed of Idaho; grand-nephew, Stevon Lyle Culver of California and grand-niece of Kylie Christian Culver of Haiti.

Preceding her in death were her parents, a son, Scott Turman; a grandson, Mikie Young; a brother, Val Jean Reed and a nephew, Vernon Culver.

Save The Date

Jan. 8

Wed, January 8th – Movie: Genetic Roulette–The Gamble of Our Lives, 6 p.m.

2012 Movie of the Year by the Solari Report and the Top Transformational Film of 2012 by Aware-Guide! Never-Before-Seen-Evidence points to genetically engineered foods as a major contributor to rising disease rates in the US.

Jan. 10

Fri, January 10th - Young Master Gardeners, 2 Sessions 2:30 & 3:30 Tree Talk: Do trees really talk? If you know their names and listen carefully, they will tell you many things.

Jan. 11

Freedom from Pesticides Volunteer Potluck - Meeting. As we ring

in the New Year FPA has scheduled a Volunteer Potluck. This invitation extends to all current and future volunteers wanting to help us protect the health of our air, water, soil and bodies, by banning pesticides within Josephine County. Saturday January 11th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ the County Bldg in Cave Junction. An opportunity to break bread, share in plans for the campaign, and find areas where you may wish to help: Outreach, Education, Research, Petition Gathering, Food Committee, and more. Join us in our quest to create a future free from toxic chemicals. www.freedomfrompesticidesalliance.org connect@freedomfrompesticidesalliance.org 541-512-5051

Jan. 15

Wed, January 15th – Library 2 Go Workshop, 5 p.m
Devices and Databases: Bring

your new device and we'll help you figure it out! Jeff Moore, from Oregon Books and Games, will be here to show you how to download free eBooks with Library2Go, discover your 24/7 digital library databases, and give guidance in using your new toys. Remember to charge your item, and with staff and volunteers at the ready, you'll master your eReader or new gadget in no time!

Jan. 22

Wed, January 22nd – Movie: Pipe Dreams, 6 p.m. Across the heartland of America, farmers and landowners are fighting to protect their land, their water, and their livelihood in what has become the most controversial environmental battle in the U.S. today: The Keystone XL Pipeline.

Jan. 23

An OSU Extension sponsored class on January 23, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Held at OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point, OR. Cost is \$15 each; \$20 farm duo; \$35 friends of farms. To register- <http://wholesalesuccess thrive.bpt.me/> This class is a great sou-to-nuts overview of selling produce into the wholesale channel, and is designed for small and mid-sized fruit and vegetable growers interested in entering into or expanding their sales. This "Wholesale Success" training was developed by FamilyFarmed.org and the USDA. It is the gold standard for learning the best practices in food safety, post-harvest handling and produce packing. The all-day professional training includes lunch and a complimentary copy of "Wholesale Success: A Farmer's Guide to Food Safety, Selling, Post-harvest Han-

dling and Packing Produce", a 312-page manual, \$70 value.

For questions call Maud Powell at SOREC, 541-776-7371, ext. 208; or by email: maud.powell@oregonstate.edu for more information.

Wed, January 8th thru Friday, January 31st - Fine Amnesty Days Nonperishable food and pet item donations will go to the Josephine County Food Bank and Animal Shelter. Each donated item credits \$5 toward overdue fees regardless of how long the item/s may have been overdue.

Jan. 29

Wed, January 29th – Craft Night: Needle Felting, 6 p.m.

Join Rochelle and Roberta for a fun evening of needle felting. Don't know how? Don't worry, they'll show you quick and easy ways to get started.

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'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.

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5 P.M. FRIDAYS