



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

The Illinois Valley High School Class of 2014 received its diplomas last week. When we purchased the paper, I started on the same day that this class began its freshman year.

The first IVHS graduation I covered was the Class of

2011. I felt a special connection with that group and this year's class.

The Class of 2014, like each of the groups I've seen here, has done well academically. But, I spend most of my time looking at all of these youngsters through a camera.

I remember Amanda Brooks as a freshman playing soccer and she reminded me of my daughter. Amanda was fast on the soccer pitch, scary fast. It's been fun to watch her play for the past four years. I also enjoyed watching Lander Nordol, Soloman Zook and Shelby Mason play soccer, my favorite sport. While working for the paper, I was also able to see Brian Bemis become an Eagle Scout, the highest honor any Scout can receive.

As the chosen teacher to address the Class of 2014, Ryan Lathan did a great job of mentioning many of the other graduates. As with any commencement, many of the speeches revolved around happiness and perseverance. The themes had to do with looking back fondly at years spent at IVHS, while reaching towards the future.

One thing for me that was noticeably absent in the speeches, so I will pass it on to the Class of 2014. Question everything. Ask why and how when confronted with new things. I am not referring to when your parents ask you to take out the garbage; you know how to do that and why. What I am referring to is when someone tells you something, ask them why or how. Not to avoid doing a task, but to learn. Life is a giant classroom. I learn something new nearly every day because I ask a lot of questions.

One of the grads made a comment at the ceremony that went something along the lines of, "If these are the best days of our lives, I am concerned for the future." My response to that is, you ain't seen nothing yet! Life starts now, so work hard and enjoy it. Happiness is a choice and it takes hard work and drive to achieve true happiness.

The last little piece of "wisdom" I will leave you with is this: The older you get, the less stupid your parents were.

Thank you for picking up this weeks 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)

Thanks for a great event.

For those of you who attended the Moon Tree Run and Firefighter Fair on Saturday - you know what a great event it was. For those of you who missed it, I hope you have a chance to see it next year! The list of those to thank is long, and the first name on the list is Roger Brandt. Roger has had a "build it and they will come" vision for the airport for many years. He knew that if you could plan and advertise an event that appealed to pilots and

the general public - they would be there. And this year proved his vision to be true.

We were at the airport on Friday night setting up our booth, and had a delicious burger dinner courtesy of the IV Lions Club. Imagine our surprise to see 6-8 airplanes parked along the runway, and an even bigger surprise to find out that the pilots flew down from Portland! They flew in for dinner, camped at the airport and then stayed for the festivities on Saturday.

As for the fun on Saturday - again, huge kudos to Roger for being the master mind, cheerleader, organizer, email blaster, and all around go-to guy for the events for the day. Healthy U and the IVFD volunteer fire crew did an incredible job assisting to make the day entertaining and satisfying. There were a number of organizations who tabled with their information. Incredibly, the planes seemed to be coming and going all day long. Many pilots from Grants Pass flew over for breakfast and/or lunch. They were more than happy to tour the public, explaining about their planes and the fun of flying. There was probably an official count, and we are not aware of those numbers. By our estimation, there were at least 30 airplanes and 2 helicopters that came for the day.

A huge thank you to ALL who did their part to plan, organize and successfully deliver an event that allowed the Illinois Valley to shine. It was a lot of fun, and we are looking forward to next year's event!

**Cheryl and Harry Johnson,
O'Brien**

See you next year

I just wanted to take a moment to say thanks to all the dedicated volunteers and organizers of the Third Annual Moon Tree Run - Firefighter Fair and Fly-In at the IV Airport Saturday. This note is going out to the whole Josephine County aviation community as well as the County Commissioners and media. Of course, a big thanks go out to all who showed up for the fun.

The entire Rough n Ready parking lot was full by 9 a.m., and we had over thirty aircraft fly in for the event. The firefighter's did a wonderful job with the pancake breakfast and sold out at 300 breakfasts served, and then they started serving hamburgers and hot dogs. The gatekeepers counted over 400 visitors to the event, and of course we had about 100 volunteers and exhibitors there doing all

the work. Healthy U and the Smokejumpers put on a great 10K race which had at least 50 runners from what I could tell from my limited perspective out on the flight line. Scott Taylor did an excellent job communicating via radio with incoming pilots and getting them parked safely, and the pilots themselves did an outstanding job of visually separating, communicating and generally flying in a safe, professional manner. The Rogue Valley Flyers RC Club had a GREAT selection of aircraft on display, and it's a real shame that the wind did not cooperate with us Saturday to allow them to fly. Hopefully they found the event to be worthwhile despite the wind.

I've attached a couple photos I managed to take during a few relatively quiet moments. I know there must be a bunch of great pictures out there taken by many of you, and if you'd like to share them, please feel free to send them to me and I'll see they get put up on our website and I'll send a link out to all.

Thanks for a great event and we hope to see twice as many people come out for the next one!

**Larry Graves
Manager, Josephine County Airports**

Obituaries



Vicki Lee Jones passed away at her home on Friday May 30th 2014.

Vicki worked for the school district for 25 years. Many knew her from Selma Elementary, and when they closed Vicki became the computer teacher for Evergreen Elementary. While still substituting at Lorna Byrne, Illinois Valley High School, and other schools in the district. When Vicki retired from the school district she went to work helping her mother Dodie Vandermark, at her non-profit food bank, The IV Open Door.

She worked there until she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and simply couldn't do it anymore. Shortly after her mother passed away and she was forced to close the Open Door.

Although her mobility decreased daily, needing more help from others it didn't stop her from putting everyone else first. She was an amazing woman with a heart of gold. She loved bringing smiles to those around her, and would have gone out of her way to help anyone in need.

She is survived by her husband Stanley Jones.

Her children, Jennifer & Bill Veldman, Dean & Heather Jones, and Katherine Jones & Gary Lewis.

Her Grandchildren, Zach Grey, Natasha & Jeffrey Barnes, Anthony & Ishta Spangler, Matt Grey, Jordan & Summer Jones, and Trevor Jones. And her great grandchildren Aliyah Murphy, Mikayah Murphy, Sierra Jones, and Unborn Baby Spangler. And her brother Sam Vandermark.

A loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. You loved unconditionally and will be missed more than words can say.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Mark Miller, who visited a few months before, which left Vicki with this glow, and talking non-stop of her memories at Selma School. Thank you Mark, you brought back a smile and memories we haven't seen or heard about in a while.

There will be a memorial for Vicki, Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. at The Baptist Church in Selma for anyone who would like to attend.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save The Date

June 13

ArtWalk will be held at various locations downtown Cave Junction.

Second Friday ArtWalk is sponsored by Illinois River Valley Arts Council, a not-for-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to providing arts education and arts experiences. For more information, visit www.irvac.com. ArtWalk information is available at cjartwalk@gmail.com or 541-226-6458.

June 16

Precious Dirt is proud to feature the acclaimed documentary Unacceptable Levels.

Examining the results of the chemical revolution of the 1940s through the eyes of affable filmmaker Ed Brown, a father seeking to understand the world in which he and his wife are raising their children. To create this debut documentary, one man and his camera traveled extensively

to find and interview top minds in the fields of science, advocacy, and law. Weaving their testimonies into a compelling narrative, Brown presents us with the story of how the chemical revolution brought us to where we are, and of where, if we're not vigilant, it may take us.

"Unacceptable Levels is a hugely important film... Sadly, most Americans are misinformed or not informed at all about how many toxic chemicals we are being exposed to 24 hours a day. These toxins are making us sick and quite simply our lives are being threatened. We need to stand up and speak out. We must demand a healthy environment for ourselves and for our children. Unacceptable Levels poignantly reveals how chemicals have invaded our lives." - Mariel Hemingway Actress, Author, Healthy Living Advocate.

6:00 to 6:30 ~ Coffee / Social
— Film begins at 7:00 p.m. - Film

Run time: 76 minutes

Free Admission / Donations Welcome~ Coffee/Tea & Goodies provided. @The Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 E River St, Cave Junction, OR 97523 (East off Hwy 199 onto E. River Street, .5 miles up on the left) Plenty of parking available www.PreciousDirt.org --- 541-597-4809

June 19

Illinois Valley Golf Association's Junior Golf Program starts Thursday, June 19 and runs for the next consecutive five Thursdays. There are four weeks of lessons, a tournament on July 17, and an awards banquet on July 24. The age divisions and times are as follows: AGES 5 - 7: - 9:00 - 10:30, AGES 8 - 10 - 10:30 - 12:00, AGES 11- 15 - 12:00 - 1:30. The cost is \$2.00, which covers the whole six weeks, if the child was not involved in the junior golf

program last year. If the child was involved, this year is free. We can also use more volunteer instructors. Please call the Pro Shop at 541-592-3151 to sign up or volunteer.

June 21 - 23

Hope Mountain Barter Faire, 3833 Holland Loop, Cave Junction. Dome School benefit. Camping, arts, crafts, music, drumming, food vendors, workshops. Adults \$15 / day. 541-592-4458

June 23-27

Howdy Partners!
Community Bible Church is celebrating with VBS, so we are rounding up all our favorite cowpokes age 4 through grade 6. Y'all come on over for the hoedown, y'hear? Roundup is at the CBC corral June 23-27 from 9:00-12:00 at 113 S.

Caves Avenue. Questions? Give us a holler at 541-592-3896. Saddle up, grab your boots, and come on over for a stompin' good time! Yee-haw! Saddle Ridge Ranch! A place where kids can ask questions and discover the answers found in God's Word.

June 28

Call for Artists! Two new art shows are slated for June and July. The C.J. Lions Club Car "Show & Shine" slated for June 28 is expanding to include artist's booths. The fee is \$25 and booths may be shared.

July 20

The Rusk Ranch Nature Center will offer a free Nature & Art Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 20. There will be a juried Fantasy Recycled fashion show among other events, vendor booth space is \$20. For further information, call 541-592-4444.

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