



## Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,  
Publisher

## A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

Being stuck home sick for several days recently, wasn't all misery. It afforded certain opportunities, like a glimpse of what not having to work might be like, of watering the garden when the time felt right, instead of between 5:00 and 6:00 a.m., before showering and dashing out the door, five minutes late, as always.

It also offered daily marathons of "The Property Brothers," an hour long show that features identical twins in their mid-thirties, both 6 foot 5, with gleaming smiles and matching dimples. One, a real estate agent, with black, slick-backed hair

and dark, tailored suits, helps people find affordable fixer-uppers in their preferred neighborhoods, while the other, a building contractor, in flannel shirts, jeans, a silver studded tool belt, and a more disheveled style of hair, guts and transforms these shabby houses into dream homes.

Sunk into the couch, unable to breathe through my nose, and resting between coughing fits, the high definition image of the Property Brothers, with their can-do attitude and computer graphic plans, offered hope, and the inclination to think about things in a more positive way. I thought of my youngest brother,

winding his way home from a recent visit. We had journeyed to Fort Stevens State Park and ascended the crumbling stairs of a cement bunker, picturing the weapons that once filled the now empty holes, wondering what had been housed in a three tier, concrete pit on the open, upper level. Through the trees a, rusting skeleton of a ship protruded from a stretch of sand, like a metal rib cage, leaning away from the waves, on the beach of this 4,200 acre park in the far, northwest corner of the state.

Encountering a fork in the trail of the Park's nine mile system, there was conflict over the right way to go.

The way I chose, had my brother disclaiming, "I'm going on record that I don't think this is the right way." We walked on anyway; both unsure, pointing out trees we thought we had passed on the way in, eventually returning to where we started.

Taking the last sip of cold remedy tea, I thought about the past, the future, the right path, and family; four things that define a life, with family dictating its direction.

I sit up a little straighter, as a couple sees their finished home for the first time. Everything that was broken is fixed. Floors, walls, and fireplaces have been restored, electri-

cal systems brought to code. Part of the appeal of the Property Brothers may lie in the searching out of tired homes, seeing beneath the worn surfaces, and not stopping until the hidden beauty is revealed. Along with the foundation, it was there the whole time.

After a week of cold symptoms, waking without them feels like starting fresh, like a layer has been shed, that all paths are open. Maybe like old houses, we hope for a little transformation, a slight makeover, for the very best version of ourselves to be revealed.

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

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## Save The Date

### Aug. 14

The Freedom from Pesticides Alliance wished to invite anyone who missed out gathering on the 7th to join us tomorrow, as we celebrate our victory; qualifying our initiative for November's ballot - Measure 17-63.

Time to celebrate, gather our efforts and kick off our campaign.

Join us in a casual gathering to strategize, share ideas, experiences and thoughts as we toast our future and move towards our destination - a win in November and finally an end to the Pesticide Poisons.

Thursday, August 14 - 6:30 p.m. The Taprock - Evergreen Room, 971 SE 6th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526

### Aug. 16

Aug. 16, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Grand opening of the Cave Junction Skate Park, free event, demo's music, food, arts and crafts, vendors, skateboard & bike repair.

### Aug. 16

It's The Berries: Saturday, August 16, 2014 ~ 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. RCC/Belt Building 24353 Redwood Highway, Kerby, OR. Contact Hazel Griffith, 541-592-6433 or Jean Shubert, 541-592-6150.

### Aug. 16

Fieldtrip: Identification and Harvesting in the High Siskiyou Saturday, August 16 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Pre-registration is re-

For more listings go to [www.ivcalendar.org](http://www.ivcalendar.org)

quired, class size limited. Cost \$40-80 (sliding scale) Supply List on registration.

Do you want to get to know some of the medicinal plants that grow here? Join herbalist Debbie Lukas in this exploration of high elevation medicinal plants. Discuss identifying characteristics, habitat, parts used, collection techniques, preparation and uses. We will field prep tinctures and dry herbs for tea. For more information, call Siskiyou Mountain Herbs at (541) 592-3386, email [sisqdeb@gmail.com](mailto:sisqdeb@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.siskiyouherbs.com](http://www.siskiyouherbs.com)

### Aug. 16

Join us along the 80 mile stretch of US Highway 199, from Highway 101 to I-5, fea-

turing yard sales and special events on the third weekend in August, 2014. There's no charge to participate, just set up your yard sale in a safe place! For more information, go to our blog at <http://hwy199yardsale.blogspot.com> or call 707-720-9379 and leave a message. Held on the same weekend as "It's the Berries" at the RCC/Belt Building, 24353 Redwood Hwy Kerby, OR

### Aug 18

Precious Dirt will not be holding their monthly meeting on Monday the 18th. [www.PreciousDirt.org](http://www.PreciousDirt.org) P.O. Box 376 Selma, OR. 97538 541-597-4809

### Aug. 23 & 24

Do your kids have those

end-of-summer blahs? Take them to the Forks State Park this weekend! On Sunday, August 23 & 24, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will be offering a fun workshop for ages 6 to 12 titled: "Hiking 101" on Saturday, August 23 and "Make your Own Bird Feeders" on Sunday, August 24. Each session lasts about an hour and parents or guardians are welcome to join in. Meet at the park pavilion at 1 p.m. all three days. There's a great swimming hole, shaded picnic tables and easy nature trails for a fun family stay-cation, too! For further information, visit [www.oregon.gov/oprd](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd)

### Aug. 27

TIME FOR TALENT! The TALENT SHOW is just

around the corner. The I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival will again host a TALENT SHOW (amateurs only) and cash prizes will be awarded the winners of each age group. Don't forget to sign up by August 27. For more information and/or to sign up, please call Donna at (541) 596-2719 or Sue at (541) 592-2252.

### Ongoing

Healing Hearts and Hooves, therapeutic horseback riding program has begun our 2014 season. Sunday classes at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. @ 4411 Holland Loop Drive, Cave Junction. Call 541-659-1798 or 541-596-2272 for volunteer or student information.

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