



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

It's officially winter in my world. No, it's not December 21 yet, but it is dark at 5 p.m.

Another tell for me is my back and my hands. It's wood stove season and that means cutting wood, which makes my back sore. In addition to that, I have stove burns all over my hands and arms.

There is something about wood heat that I just love, other

than the pain that it brings. Our other source of heat is a pellet stove, which I really don't care for. It's just not the same.

On Thanksgiving, Laura and I didn't have any children and cooking for just the two of us wasn't in the cards. We had planned on going to the coast for a few nights, but our pet sitter was not able to cover for us. So, we spent our time putzing around the house and watching football most of the day. One of our TV's died the weekend prior, so with the Thanksgiving sales, the timing really worked out well for a trip to Grants Pass.

On good days, I despise going to Wal-Mart. On Black Friday Eve, the idea of going made me nauseous. We ended up getting a good deal and were hungry. Who is open on Thanksgiving night? Chinese restaurants, so that's where we ended up. While waiting for our food, an older lady shuffled past our table with a napkin wrapped around her shoe. In typical Dan fashion I made a few jokes. Laura felt we should say something but the woman was walking so stiffly we didn't want her to bend over to take it off. We assumed it would fall off eventually.

About ten minutes later, a man came in and said a woman was laying in the parking lot, right under our window. It happened to be the same woman. She had fallen and hit her head. Paramedics were called and we sat and watched them work on her. After a time, they put her on a stretcher and loaded her into the ambulance.

By that time, I had lost my appetite and we boxed up our food. In the time this took, the ambulance was still sitting in the parking lot. The EMTs didn't seem to be in a hurry and judging by the things we saw them do, we were led to believe that she had passed.

How sad is that? To spend a holiday alone. To go out to dinner alone on Thanksgiving and die in a parking lot, alone in the dark? It was a somber ride home that night.

It kind of makes me feel foolish to complain about a sore back and burns on my hands. I spent the day with my wife and spoke to most of my family on the phone. I was not alone, and for that I am thankful.

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.)

Speed Kills

Some drivers seem to use the stretch of Takilma Road between Four Corners and Holland Loop as a speedway. Deer cross this section of road at least twice a day every day to reach the river and every year several fawns and often an adult deer are killed on that stretch of road.

On November 29th, however, it wasn't a deer that got killed. It was a full grown horse. Someone had to be travelling at very high speed to do so much damage to the poor horse. Their car must be a mess. We wonder what condition the driver was in while driving, both before and after hitting the horse.

The stretch of road from Four Corners to Holland Loop badly needs deer signs, and drivers need to adhere to the 55 mph speed limit.

Joyce & Harry Abrams Cave Junction

A Request

Is there anyone out there that knows how and when the white horse was killed this past Saturday on Takilma Road? If you know, please give me a call at 541-659-5859.

Also, I have another request, all you folks that have horses on your property, please be kind enough to give them the option to get out of the weather when they need to. Additionally, if you are going to put a blanket on them please take it off when it is no longer needed.

Thank you,

Harry Abrams Cave Junction

Obituaries

Neil D. Josselyn died Saturday, November 22, at his home. He was 63.

Born to Dana H. and Joanne Henderson Josselyn of Marshfield, MA, July 19, 1951, in South Weymouth, he graduated from Marshfield High School in 1969 and received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1974.

While at U Mass he met Heather Bamford. They became Life Partners in 1973. She was by his side when he passed, having nursed him through his final few months.

Together they moved to the Northwest in 1978, living first at Sunstar Ranch, just below the Oregon border. In 1982 they established East Fork Llama Ranch in Takilma.

For 30 years they were suc-

cessful breeders and showers of woolly llamas, winning numerous regional and national championships.

An avid sportsman and recreationalist Neil enjoyed skiing, rafting, fishing and hiking the mountain trails of the Siskiyou mountains. He had a fiery passion for sports, particularly softball and golf.

A 34 year career in softball resulted in dozens of tournament championships as well as numerous All Tournament Team honors. As a leadoff batter he was known for sparking his team to first inning rallies.

From his position at shortstop he helped his Oregon Masters 50 and over team to the Senior Softball National Championship in 2004.

As player-coach he led his team, Spot Bar and Tavern of

Portland, to the coveted Triple Crown of senior softball, winning the Northwest Regionals, the National Championship and the World Championship.

Three days before he received his terminal diagnosis he helped his team win another regional tournament in Las Vegas to again qualify for nationals. He played five games on the final day, three with a separated shoulder.

As a lifelong single digit handicap golfer he tore up the Illinois Valley Golf Course for more than a quarter century, winning the Club Championship in 1987, '92 and 2000.

He is survived by Ms. Bamford, two brothers, David Josselyn, of St. Croix, US Virgin Islands and Brian Josselyn, of Upstate New York and a sister, Karen Verry, of Derry, NH, as well as his Godchildren, Madera and Jamaal

Allan of the Midwest.

He will be missed by them and scores of others from both his softball world and his community. Feel free to Celebrate His Life however you feel appropriate.

Forrest Chester

"Dutch" Warner, 47 of Cave Junction passed away November 10, 2014 at his home in Cave Junction, Oregon. Private family services have been held. For online condolences and tributes please visit www.stephensfc.com. Arrangements by Stephens Family Chapel, Grants Pass, Oregon.

Dutch was born on April 16, 1967 in Gooding, Idaho to Henry and Dixie Warner. He graduated from Illinois Valley High School. He served in the United States Army as a cook from 1985-1987. On August 21, 2004 he

married Andrea Prudhomme in Cave Junction. Over the years he worked at Shop Smart and ABC Cleaning. He also was a volunteer firefighter from IV Fire District at Station 2 in Selma, Oregon. He enjoyed cooking, camping, hanging out with family and helping others.

In addition to his wife he is survived by his three daughters, Brittany Mosley of Cave Junction, Alicia Warner of Cave Junction, and Destanee Warner of Cave Junction; father, Hank Warner of Cave Junction; mother, Dixie Cegelnik of Selma; Step-dad, Norm Cegelnik of Selma; two brothers, Chip Warner of Selma and Scott Warner of Cave Junction; two sisters, Holly Warner of Cave Junction and Heidi Warner of Cave Junction; step-brother, Jim Cegelnik of Greenbrae, California.

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

Save The Date For more listings go to www.ivcalendar.org

Dec. 3

IVHS Girls JV Basketball at home vs. Hidden Valley at 4 p.m.

IVHS Girls Varsity Basketball at home vs. Hidden Valley at 5:30 p.m.

IVHS Boys JV Basketball at home vs. Hidden Valley at 5:30 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School.

IVHS Boys Varsity Basketball at home vs. Hidden Valley at 7 p.m.

Dec. 3

6 p.m. Wednesday, December 3rd FREE Book Reading and Sales - Local Authors @ IV Library.

Local authors Kindi Fahrnkopf, Michael Spring, Justin Rohde, Deborah Murphy, K.R. Hulsey, Kelpie Wilson, Buckwheat Bob Harrison and Ryan Forsythe & son Rory present their latest publications. Come join us for readings, signings and sales along with refreshments. Autographed books make unique holiday gifts!

Josephine Community Libraries - IV Branch, 209 W Palmer St, CJ, 541-592-4778

Dec. 4

Santa Claus will be at the IV Chamber Christmas Tree lighting 5 p.m. in the Junction Inn Parking lot.

Dec. 4

IVHS Boys Varsity Wrestling at home vs. Brookings Harbor at 4 p.m.

Dec. 5

IV Chamber Mixer/Auction at Wild River Brewery Friday, Dec. 5 from 5-9 p.m.. This will be a no host pizza with beer and wine tasting donated by Wild River and Bridgeview Winery. Proceeds will go to purchasing new Christmas Lights and refurbishing the Illinois Valley signs at both ends of the Valley.

Dec. 5

Young Master Gardeners will meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Josephine Community Library in Cave Junction. Hands-on exploration of: Is soil living or dead? All are welcome.

Dec. 5

IVHS Boys Varsity Wrestling away at Phoenix High School at 9 a.m.

IVHS Girls JV Basketball at home vs. North Valley at 4 p.m.

IVHS Boys JV Basketball at home vs. North Valley at 5:30 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School.

IVHS Girls Varsity Basketball at home vs. North Valley at 5:30 p.m.

IVHS Boys Varsity Basketball at home vs. North Valley at 7 p.m.

Dec. 6

IVHS Boys Varsity Wrestling away at Del Norte High School at 8 a.m.

IVHS Girls JV Basketball at home vs. Bandon at 1 p.m.

IVHS Boys JV Basketball at home vs. Bandon at 2:30 p.m.

IVHS Girls Varsity Basketball at home vs. Bandon at 4 p.m.

IVHS Boys Varsity Basketball at home vs. Bandon at 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 6 & 7

Winter Holiday Bazaar, Dec. 6 & 7, Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Crafts, food, live holiday music and a raffle. At the Dome School, Takilma Community Building, 9367 Takilma Rd., Cave Junction. If you would like to play the piano during the event we would love to have you. For more information call 541-592-3911.

Dec. 13

"A Solstice Story" dance and theater presentation based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will take place December 13 at 6 p.m. and December 14 at 2 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School Cafeteria, 101 S. Junction Ave, Cave Junction. Presented by the Lorna Byrne Studio to School Performing Arts Program, made possible by a grant from Oregon Community Foundation. Co-Sponsors: Dancefarm, Evergreen Elementary, IRVAC, and IVCDO. Admission: Pay-What-You-Can sliding scale at the door. Information: 541-415-8010.

Dec. 17

The Lorna Byrne Middle School Music Department presents the annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 17. The Bands and Choir will perform a variety of holiday fare beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Jamie Scott Memorial Gym. Admission is free but donations at the door are always appreciated.

Dec. 20

4th Annual Artisans' Holiday Faire this year will be at the County Building on Friday, December 12 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, December 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 20

Christmas Gifts Bazaar December 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Rd, Cave Junction. Handmade Arts & Crafts / Bake Sale Gift wrapping available. Enjoy yummy soup & desserts while you shop (available all day). Please join us for Live Music, Fellowship & Fun.

For more info call 541-592-6058. 100% of proceeds to benefit the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley.

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News - Dan Mancuso
dan@illinois-valley-news.com

Circulation - Kimberly Potter
office@illinois-valley-news.com

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

Mailroom - Millie Watkins

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

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