



## Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,  
Publisher

It almost seems like alcohol has been a sidekick for every stupid thing I have ever done in my life. I tend to think I am a lot funnier than I actually am while drinking. This leads me to say things that are at times hurtful.

A few weeks ago, I made a comment to a young man that had been through several tragic events. I thought I was hilarious, but he didn't.

Once I saw the hurt in his eyes, I immediately begged for forgiveness. I dealt with it on the spot. I didn't threaten him. Instead, I owned it. I am sure he still har-

bors some ill will towards me for my words. And, truth be told, I deserve it.

Simon Hare's prank is not what I have a problem with. The fact that Mr. Deakins claims that Hare was drunk, is not what I have a problem with. I have a problem with how Hare handled the situation.

I watch and listen to almost every meeting the county commissioners hold. What I have witnessed over the past four years is mind boggling. All of this is done when I presume he is sober, during work hours. Yet, Hare's behavior is, at times, downright rude.

I see a pattern in his behavior and think he has a problem with the truth. How does someone deny saying something when it has been recorded? Yet, Hare continues to do just that on a regular basis. But, what can you expect from a guy that used to deny he was even from the valley he professes to love?

I will walk you through a few of the issues I have.

One: In the police report, Hare is described as uncooperative during the investigation of his stolen Jeep. According to the Medford Police Department detective, Hare closed the door in his face.

Two: Hare denies being for the solid waste ordinances. Hare, though, was the architect of those ordinances and, in fact, voted for them in the first reading and lobbied hard for them.

Three: During an Oct. 7, 2014 meeting, which you can access on the county's website, Hare tried to misappropriate funds by using Title Three funds for a project that everyone, including county legal, said he could not do. In that same meeting, he accused Washington County of putting their economic development dollars directly in the general fund, which is not allowed. Hare suggested that Josephine County do the same.

Hare's latest attempt to swindle the public came in a Dec. 20 statement to the press regarding the racy texts he acknowledged sending to two young women on Dec. 5.

"I have since made amends with the

family and I'm told that all has been understood to be a tragic mistake and everything has been forgiven," Hare wrote in part.

According to Mr. Deakins, this is not true.

In the same statement, Hare went on to say, "I can no longer trust myself to react as I normally would if drinking is a factor and I am taking steps to deal with this."

But what are those steps? What kind of timetable is involved to complete those steps? In this situation, the right thing to do is resign and deal with the problem(s).

Here is how Hare could do it: *As of today, I resign from my position as Josephine County Commissioner Position Three. I do this to take the steps necessary to deal with my problems. When I get my life back in order, I will run again and win back my position and your trust. I do this so the county can focus on the tasks at hand without my personal life distracting from that important work.*

There you go, Simon. I gave you the words to use, now go do the right thing.

Merry Christmas everybody! djm

## Bob's Corner: Christmas cats can cause concern

by Bob Rodriguez

There appears to be no record of cats at the Nativity although we have found that felines really like Christmas.

However, there are a few problems with our six curious creatures during the holidays. For example, we no longer can hang breakable bulbs on our Yule tree because the cats get a kick out of swatting them. The bulbs then fall to the floor and shatter. Cats like that sort of activity.

And we worry about the brightly colored lights on the tree because although they can't be smacked off, the felines have been known to gnaw on the electric cord. This does not seem like a good or safe idea. OK, so we no longer use shiny fragile bulbs or electric lights.

We also had to give up putting tinsel on our holiday fir because (guess): a) Cats like to swipe at the dangling decor. b) Cats enjoy yanking the tinsel off the branches and then rolling around in the debris. c) Sometimes a cat will ingest a length of tinsel (more on this feat later). Or

d) all of the preceding, which is the most likely scenario.

Yet another seasonal glitch involves trying to run our scale model electric train around the tree. It moves, you see, and cats think that means they're supposed to chase it. This results in the engine and cars being knocked askew or totally off the track. This also results in the engineer (that would be me) becoming frustrated and angry and finally giving up. Fine! If they don't want me to enjoy the train then let's leave it wrecked. At least then the ferocious hunters will leave it alone.

We also must not forget how helpful cats can be when we unpack our unbreakable ornaments or try to wrap Christmas presents. Cats, you see, really are incredibly curious, which means that wish to explore the insides of boxes by burrowing in and using those sharp devices on their paws to remove what's inside. They also enjoy seeing if wrapping paper will shred easily. This means that sometimes the recipients of our gifts will find chunks of wrapping paper with claw marks. Or

occasionally a couple of tooth marks. Same with ribbons, bows and tape. The latter often results in one cat sticking around more than another (sorry ...)

One more observation is that with cats one will likely find at least one at the top of the Yule tree after climbing through the decorations and branches. So we often get to redecorate portions of the tree, as the decorations tend to fall off when the branches undergo violent shaking as a cat clambers up. And there's nothing like having a furry creature at the uppermost piece of your tree, staring at you and trying to bat off the star so that they can watch it plummet to the floor.

So yes, cats are wonderful at Christmas, as they keep you on your toes. Oh yeah, about the cat who had some tinsel. There was good news and bad news. The good news was that a piece still was showing at his mouth. The bad news was that there also was a piece coming out his rear. And that's the end of this tale ...

## 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.)

### Reader questions poll

A recent poll of JoCo registered voters done by Strategy Research Institute (SRI) claims 51% of the 402 registered JoCo voters, or 200 voters, "definitely favors" a proposed Safety levy to fund some Sheriff's road patrols, increased jail bed capacity staffing and Juvenile Justice Center to be voted on in the May 2015 primary if signatures can be gathered, raises many questions.

Somehow, these 200 voters are supposed to be representative of all 50,551 JoCo 2014 registered voters. This is less than 1/2 of 1% of the voters. Why weren't 5,000 or 10,000 voters polled to get a more accurate result? Were the 402 selected randomly and proportionately from all major political parties? Were questions neutral with full disclosure of budgets for the patrol, jail and JJC? Were polled voters personally questioned

by phone, mail or other means? Were they equally divided by gender, age, location, renters or property owners? Were the results certified true and accurate by a recognized authority? No mention was made about these important demographics.

Why haven't our commissioners, instead of quasi-political action committee's such as Securing Our Safety and Community United for Safety, come up with some new and innovative ways other than property taxes to fund the Sheriff's road patrol, jail and Juvenile Justice Center (JJC)? Why don't the Commissioners offer voters a separate levy for each of these services so they can select what they want? Why won't the city of Grants Pass propose to city voters that they obtain access to the old sheriff's jail in the courthouse complex? Or, build and tax city dwellers for their own JJC?

Why is the Sheriff's road patrol limited to only 16 hours a day? Will criminals take a nap or read a book? Who will protect JoCo citizens the other 8 hours when there are no patrols, because rested criminals will be on the prowl? Also remember, this proposed levy will cause your taxes to increase 240% per year above the current 58 cents/\$1000 assessed value.

If, or when, a petition gatherer seeks you out, refuse to sign this future \$9 million, seriously flawed, half-baked "safety" levy.

**Robert Thomas**  
C.J.

### Reader expounds on the Oregon Caves Expansion

I want to extend my thanks to the many people, groups and over fifty businesses that participated in helping with this bi-partisan legislation and I also want to thank Rep. Peter Defazio and Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley for their persistence in seeing this through. This boundary extension will preserve this biological jewel and cave system ecology. Additionally, it serves as an opportunity for the community to market ourselves to the increased visitation we shall see, especially in 2016 when America shall celebrate 100 years of National Parks. Yet much is hinged on this gateway community to want to market itself to these visitors from near and far. It's pretty amazing how many foreign visitors from all over the world tour the National Monument and hike up to the Bigelow Lakes Basin. However, this past summer has offered challenges in the deplorable conditions of our local campgrounds, the Illinois River Corridor and our very own visitor center and the most recent discount grocery store being vandalized. This underscores our inability for family safe vacationing in the Illinois Valley and overall community pride that Grants Pass and the rest of the Rogue Valley can and will more effectively service those overnights that will spend most of their time (and money) there, rather than here, yet, still visit the expansion area. Additionally, how many of our visitors are business owners from all over the country and traveling through here, going to, or from the Redwoods and Crater Lake, noting a lack

of public safety and degraded campgrounds, quickly re-think the prospect of moving their business here? In short, how much business relocation commerce have we lost over the course of the past several years? These are some thoughts I place before our business community and stakeholders this holiday season and how all of us could work together to welcome the uptick in visitors we will see here in the near future. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

**Greg Walter**  
C.J.

### Reader says send in your envelope

Dear Editor,

I was out of town and missed my yellow envelope from the library. However when I heard the library had lost at the polls I did donate my tax increase amount and really encourage everyone to use those envelopes to support the library. The years that the library was closed were bleak for readers and for students and for the community. Please support the library.

**Sincerely,**  
**Alberta Heagney**  
C.J.

# ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

## Save The Date

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

### Christmas, Dec. 25

Cave Junction Cares presents Christmas Breakfast with Santa. Free; rain or shine, come eat and enjoy from 10 a.m. – noon at Jubilee Park. This is a community effort and all volunteers and donations of any kind will be gladly accepted and appreciated. Please call Lynn Boucher @ 541-592-3594 for additional information.

Please drop your donations off at Redwood Service Center, 223 N. Redwood Hwy. for 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. until Dec. 24 or you can mail any contributions to Cave Junction Cares, Lynn Boucher, P.O. Box 1841, Cave Junction, OR 97523

### Christmas, Dec. 25

Traditional Christmas Dinner free to everyone noon to 3 p.m. at the County Building in Cave Junction (corner of Lister

and Highway 199). Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Musicians and donations are still needed. Please call Jennie 541-592-0327.

### Dec. 27

IVHS Alumni Holiday Hoops Fundraiser for the IV Girls Basketball program. Saturday December 27th in Ken Mann Memorial Gym.

Girls game @ 5 pm, Boys game(s) to

follow.

To be eligible to play you must have played basketball at IV your Senior year. \$10 player entry fee, \$5 for spectators.

3 point competition and Free Throw competition open to anyone with prizes!

Come watch some of your favorite basketball alumni reunite on the IV court for some friendly competition! Go Cougars!

## 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 - \$30.50  
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  
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

**DEADLINES:**  
News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcements and Letters  
**4 P.M. FRIDAYS**

**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.