



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

I fell in love with newspapers again last week. Yes, I know, I am a paper boy but I have a love-hate relationship with them. I was traveling to Chicago and I purchased a *Denver Post* during my layover in Denver. When we were boarded on the flight to Chicago the captain came on and said we would not have internet on the flight, a huge communal groan overtook the plane. I chuckled and was

happy to have my paper. I learned a lot about the goings-on in Denver and was able to glean some information that would apply to my little life here in the Valley of Riches.

On my return trip from my annual Chicagoland Speedway NASCAR trip with my father, I purchased the *Chicago Sun Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *The New York Times*. I was blown away with all the information I obtained. Most of it was things I never would have clicked on if it were on the web, but as a captive audience, I read it all.

I learned about Libyan illegal immigration into Italy and I read another story about how Italy was dealing with jellyfish. I have to ask, "Would you find that 'click bait' interesting?" Not me, yet I read every word. I read stories about how immigrants are moving to dying Midwestern manufacturing towns in droves which is making rural America more integrated.

I learned many things that were out of my

wheelhouse. These are the things you learn when you are forced to see a reality that normally you are shielded from or can ignore; papers don't let you do that. It's easy to cruise past things that are not of interest in today's ADD added internet world.

It reminded me of a lady I see on Facebook often asking about what is happening in CJ. I once said, "The information you seek is in this week's *Illinois Valley News*." Her response was that she does not get the paper. I asked why and get this, she said, "There was nothing in it!"

You may not be interested in every topic. But at the end of the day, your horizons will be expanded and you just might make a better cocktail party attendee due to your new found knowledge that you picked up reading a newspaper.

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.)

Reader blames fires on greed

When you look at maps of these fires, they are right where Wilderness areas, National Forests and BLM lands are. It's proof positive of the failure of government ownership and control. These same lands have been burned over and over for years at the cost of millions and billions of tax dollars and thousands of jobs.

These lands should never have been in the hands of government bureaucracies. Legally and morally, the policies of clear cutting and no logging have been ongoing disastrous.

If these lands had been opened up to homesteading, land stewardships and selective logging, they could have created thousands of jobs and millions even billions of dollars of income and tax revenues.

Even now that they are burned out wastelands, they could be restored faster and at low cost to the taxpayers. If they were opened up to homesteading, land stewardships and selective logging. All the brush and waste wood could create fuel for steam powered electric generation plants, creating thousands of jobs and revenue. How much more evidence do we need of the failure of bureaucratic government control of public lands? The whole West Coast and much of the west is on fire again. How many more times does it have to burn to be admitted a failure of government? If global warming is at fault, it is the government policies over the last 100 years that created it and sustain it. So higher taxes and more bureaucratic government control is not going to make it go away.

Mark Wichers
Cave Junction

Reader thanks government for cancer

I just want to thank our governor, all state reps, county commissioners and city council members across our beautiful state for doing right by your constituents and banning all GMOs and

pesticides from being used in our state.

In 2015 I had 8 people, that I was very close to, die of cancers of varying types. With the banning of the use of all synthesized chemicals and growing of GMOs we here in this state can now start to heal.

Oh yeah, that's right, you all chose to side with the petrochemical industry, timber industry, big AG and pharmaceutical industry. That's why more of my friends are dying of cancer. Along with their children, our pets, livestock and wildlife.

For some reason no one here knows how to make a living without destroying our planet and killing each other.

Is that why we have allowed our education system to become babysitters of unruly children? Because our representatives know their brains have been mutated due to all of these petro-chemicals? And programming them to do as their told...buy, buy, buy to keep the economy alive, is all they can accomplish?

I just want to thank all of you for aiding and abetting in the biggest crime ever committed on the largest mass of people you could get away with. I just hope the money was worth it. Because you too will be dying of cancer, crohn's disease, fibromyalgia, dementia and a host of other illnesses, along with your children and grandchildren.

So thank you for killing us slowly, painfully and draining our bank accounts. Because we can not

get medical care in this country any more either.

Nina Horsley
Cave Junction

Reader concerned about future

We are all experiencing the effects of what Daniel Pauly defined as, "Shifting Baseline Syndrome"; the pattern that each generation accepts their version of Nature, plunders it, then leaves the next generation to accept the depleted version. This is a catastrophic reality in our oceans being overfished, depleted, and dying. We accept the forest disappearing before our eyes, yet deforestation continues. Because each generation does not know exactly what a true healthy forest looks like, they accept the version of the forest they are given as normal. To realize exactly what a healthy forest ecosystem looks like, the baseline must be established as a forest which has been untouched by human hands, ie: logging, deforestation, diminished stream capability to support fish populations and aquatic life, pollution levels, etc. We cannot measure the health of our forests from a baseline of a decade or two or three decades ago. We must return to a baseline of a forest that had never been touched by mankind. We will then and only then have a view of the decade by decade decline of our forests and forest health and mismanagement of

natural systems.

By accepting the version of decline given each generation, we feel the decline is not necessarily that huge, without taking a longer look back in time to see just how severe the changes have become and how difficult it becomes to correct them. We become complacent in our actions and accept our version of the depleted natural world. Why put in the effort to change it? But this is the exact problem which needs addressing. This is the exact pitfall we are enveloped within by our version of climate change. 90% of all large fisheries are gone. 80% of all natural forests worldwide, are gone. Our topsoil is poisoned and blows away. Our prairies, grasslands and wetlands are dried or gone. Our glaciers are melting, soon to be gone, and I fear, that a generation or two from now, this will all be viewed as, normal. We MUST make education on these facts a priority in our schools and public forums. I have witnessed the dying of our oceans, of our farmlands and our pristine forests. I have lived long enough to be able to look back and remember what was, and this is what makes me fight for our natural communities and watersheds, to help heal our unhealthy and exploited ecosystems and for a healthy and educated future for our children and grandchildren. Simple hope will not bring true change, our actions will.

Len Greenwood
Selma

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

Save the date

Sept. 27

IVHS boys' varsity soccer game at home vs. the Canyonville Christian Academy at 4:30 p.m.

IVHS girls' varsity soccer game at St. Mary's High School at 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 28

IVHS boys' varsity soccer game at home vs. Milo Academy at 4:30 p.m.

IVHS girls' varsity volleyball game at Milo Academy at 5 p.m.

Sept. 29

IVHS boys' varsity football game vs. Clatskanie at Lebanon High School at 7 p.m.

Sept. 30

IVHS cross-country varsity invitational vs. Ashland High School at 12:20 p.m.

IVHS boys' varsity soccer game at home vs. Pacific High School at 1 p.m.

Sept. 30

10th annual Acorn Festival, Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Selma Community Center on Hwy. 199 in Selma, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. This FREE outdoor/indoor event includes: *Hands-on workshops on acorns and their processing, *Acorn cooking basket

demonstration, *Historic photos of traditional acorn processing, *IRVAC free nature crafts table for all ages, *Fun and educational activities all day long and *Scarecrow contest with \$100 prize. Karuk Elder speaks; all are welcome rain or shine. Brought to you by the Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network (CEEN). For more information contact Suzanne Vautier 541-291-8860.

Sept. 30

I.V. Garden Club plant sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. True Value Hardware parking lot. Winter veges, rare plants, trees, houseplants. All sales benefit IVHS scholarship program.

Sept. 30

Clean Up Day, hosted by the Rotary Club will meet at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition at 535 E. River St. Saturday, Sept. 30 at 8:45 a.m.

Oct. 5

Family Fun Fair Oct. 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary 520 W. River Street, Cave Junction.

Join us for games and chili dinner FREE! Be a judge in the Healthier Dessert Contest: \$4-\$10.

Do you want to enter the Healthier Dessert Contest?

Sign up/Questions: healthyu-center@gmail.com or call 541-592-4888

Oct. 20 - 22

9th annual Valley Girls Quilt Show will be Oct. 20 - 21, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., I.V. Senior Center, 520 E. River St. Cave Junction, \$3 entrance fee, All proceeds donated to I.V. Baseball Team, Boys & Girls Club & Evergreen Elementary School Life Skills, 100 never shown before quilts on display, Country Store, games and door prizes, 2017 Opportunity Quilt "Mountain Valley Vistas" & burgers and desserts too!

Continuing

Your public library has activities happening every week! New Storytime reader, Melanie, has crafts and stories for kids of all ages Saturdays at 12 noon. Families at Play baby-parent group is for pre-walking babies Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. Early literacy skills are taught within a 30-minute storytime of songs, bounces, and reading, followed by a half-hour of play and chat time. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. I.V. Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

*Illinois Valley Community Watch Meeting every Monday from 5 - 6 p.m. at Wild River Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy. - Cave Junction. A Public Safety Outreach Campaign effort with all I.V. Neighborhood Watch Groups - representatives, including businesses and churches, and support for anyone wishing to start a neighborhood watch. Includes a 2-way hand held radio program briefing from 4:20 - 4:50 p.m. Contact Guenther - 541-415-1929 / ivwatch541@gmail.com.

*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store: Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citizen to volunteer at the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*The Sheriff's Office Substation in Cave Junction is now open on Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Volunteers are still needed to staff additional days. Applications are available at the substation or on line at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer%20Application.Mar%202014.pdf>.

*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively address-

ing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665 or visit cjp patrol.org.

*Committee Meeting STATE OF JEFFERSON Josephine County 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Black Forest Restaurant, Grants Pass and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction.

*Come join the Cave Junction Lions Club at River Valley Restaurant, at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We are a co-ed club and are always looking for community minded people that are dedicated, hard working, whether physically limited or not and most of all, like to have fun.

Come by and see what we do or give us a call, 541-592-9243 Nina Horsley, president.

*Second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 222 W. Lister Street, Cave Junction, Oregon, the Common Council of the City of Cave Junction will meet in a regular session.

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by
W.H. Alltheway, 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

Since 1937 periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523 P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year in Josephine County - \$35
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$36
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$43.00

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

Editor - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

Classified Ads - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

Circulation - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

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

Mailroom - Millie Watkins

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

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