



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Harvest time in the Valley is gearing up for both of our major agricultural crops. While the smoke from the fires prolonged the grapes, some say, it sped up the marijuana crops.

Like it or not, marijuana is legal. Believe it or not,

hundreds of people who worked in the cash only business of producing marijuana are now on the books. This means they are now paying taxes on the income, this is a good thing.

The influx of cash and gainful employment has the Valley booming,

a fact that only the blind can deny. But this is still Josephine County and I have come to believe our leadership would like to keep us down. After the passing of Measure 91 our elected officials have been trying to kill it. Instead of lobbying Salem for a way get the growing regions the fair share of the tax benefit; our officials did their best to kill the crop.

You see, Commissioners Hare and Walker were busy planting low THC, high CBD hemp. The two went so far as to send a letter to Salem against the proposed hemp ban in Josephine County.

Banning hemp would protect the fledgling marijuana industry. In doing so, both Hare and Walker violated ORS 244.040 which prohibits elected officials from making decisions that would personally benefit them financially. In the end, ORHEMPCO was a flop after almost 1,000 plants allegedly were eaten by deer over night. Both Walker and Hare were found in violation by the State ethics committee and given a slap on the wrist.

Now in an attempt to kill the marijuana industry the commissioners are using code violations to ban the farms from Rural

Residential properties (RR). RR properties are supposed to allow residential living while maintaining the rural lifestyle. Well, in my experience, rural lifestyles come along with smells, sounds and sights that you find in rural areas.

The violations of current county zoning codes is the mantra the commissioners are using to ban pot farming. Let me repeat, we have codes on the books that allegedly are being violated. So why are they not enforcing the current codes? Why add another level of government bureaucracy?

This has nothing to

do with pot farming and all to do with the anti-marijuana culture in our government.

But is it? Commissioner Hare often likes to talk about growing up on the Oxbow Ranch, how he would be happy being a farmer and not in government. The Oxbow Ranch happens to be zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) where it would still be legal to grow marijuana. It makes me wonder how much more valuable Hare's family ranch would be worth if this ban goes through. Let that sink in for a moment.

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

Obituaries

Lynden "Denny" Owen Hare, 78. Denny's family would like to invite those who knew and loved him to a celebration of his life on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 2 p.m. at the Illinois Valley High School.

David Mac Kechnie, 83, passed early in the morning hours of Oct. 1, surrounded by his family. He was husband to Marie Mac Kechnie for 60 years.

Born and raised in Van Nuys, Calif. where he attended high school at Van Nuys High, then attended Valley Junior College and graduated from Occidental College. He served in the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1955. He met his beautiful wife Marie and was married to her on April 13, 1957.

David found his true passion in writing song lyrics and had a career working with Kenny Rogers, Martina McBride, Jerry Fielding, Steve Gillette, Billy and Marilyn McCoo, Kin Vassy, Eddie Beal, Red Calendar and a host of others all of which really should be named.

David and Marie moved to Cave Junction in 1988 and never looked back. They fell in love with the people of Oregon and the beauty of the landscape. Dave started D&M Rooter and served the people of the Illinois Valley proudly. He was a transplant from Southern California but considered himself a true "Oregonian." He even rooted for the Ducks!

David is survived by his wife, Marie; his son, Scott; his two daughters, Lisa and Michelle; his grandchildren, Ashley, Caitlyn and

Hannah; and great-grandchildren, Brady, Harper and Samuel.

A celebration of David's life will be held at his residence Saturday, Oct. 7, at noon.



David Mac Kechnie

Charles D. Brooks, 69, of Kerby, died Sept. 22, 2017 at his home.

Arrangements are pending with Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

Frank Spencer, age 64, of Kerby, died Sept. 22, 2017 at his home.

Arrangements are pending with Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

Eddie "Roy" Evans, 87, of Cave Junction, died Sept. 12, 2017 at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center.

Roy was born Feb. 28, 1930 in Oakland, Calif. During the Korean War, he was a United States Navy pilot. In 1992 he moved from Hawaii to Selma, and in 1996, moved to Cave Junction.

Roy is survived by a stepsister, Betty Barnes of Kerby; seven stepchildren, Carolyn and Sharon of Calif., and George, Ben, Pam, Keith and Nannette all of Hawaii.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Evans Aug. 17, 2017.

Private interment for both Roy & Nancy will be at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Kory Michael Firestenberg-Scott, 23, of O'Brien, Ore., left this world on Sept. 30, 2017. He is survived by his parents, DeAnn Bethke and Craig Scott; step-par-

ents, Sarah Scott and Marvin Bethke; sisters, Jasmine Firestenberg-Aaron, Katelin Scott, Dakota Scott, Haven Bethke and Olivia Russo; paternal grandparents, Ben and Evelyn Scott; maternal grandparents, Jeanie Cornett and Robert Firestenberg; and grandparents of the heart, Marla Aaron and Gary Burden. Kory also has many aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends who will continue to love and miss him greatly.

An avid outdoorsman, Kory enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing. His hobbies also included fantasy football and playing pool with the 199 Pool Team. Kory will be missed by his work family at Rogue Truck Body, where he took great pride in his job.

Kory loved the underdogs of this world with his innate capacity for compassion and kindness. He began each day with his infectious smile, going out into the world to truly live and love. Kory's epic bear hugs had a way of making everything feel alright, and will be sorely missed by many.

Though Kory is no longer with us in body, his spirit will live on in all that had the pleasure of knowing and loving him. An amazing son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend to many. The legacy he leaves behind is one of kindness, joy, adventure, compassion and love. A Celebration of Life will take place Sunday, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. at the home of Tawnya and Shawn Campbell, 9363 Holland Loop Rd. in Cave Junction.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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541-592-4110

Save the date

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: healthycenter@gmail.com or call 541-592-4888

Oct. 8

The Southern Oregon Guild of Artist & Artisans presents "What Makes You Woo?" a workshop and book release Sunday, Oct. 8. At 2 p.m. the work shop with Deborah Ann Dawson begins with creating a storybook character using watercolor pencils. Class fee for Deborah's workshop is \$35 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. Class size is limited. Call 541-592-5019 to reserve space. Then at 5 p.m. there will be a book release for "Woodwo, The Little Sasquatch" by Michael Spring and fully illustrated by Deborah Ann Dawson. This event is free and open to the public. These events are held at the RCC Kerby Campus, 24353 Redwood Hwy, Kerby.

Oct. 12

Town Hall Meeting: 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Senior Center - 520 E. River St. Dessert Potluck, free Coffee & Tea. Topic/presentations on: Current Crime, CJ Patrol, Public Safety, Neighborhood Watch, Emergency Preparedness, also includes Neighborhood Watch startup packets. Meet leaders of local Watch groups and I.V. Fire Community Emergency Response Team members as we organize and network for mutual support. To RSVP or get an Agenda Packet - email: ivwatch541@gmail.com or call 541-415-1929. For a Youtube intro and May 4 presentation by Chief Dennis Hoke, visit www.ivwatchsite.wordpress.com

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 and 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 Guenter - 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 addressing 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.

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'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.