



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Josephine County Community Planning Director is back at it again. In my experience she has a habit of making statements that facts don't support, then denies making them. She now claims the creation of the RR5 ban only had to do with the ballot initiative and nothing to do with illegal grows or code violations.

During the process she also droned on about the downside to the economy, so we reached out to her to see what in particular she meant.

Her first point was about the decline in housing prices. But as Jason McMillen points out in his article this week, she is way off base. As a matter of fact housing prices have jumped up over 62 percent since 2012. She also cites the potential of people just walking away from the property they purchased, allowing them to be foreclosed on. "I have a concern about 'abandonment' and the impact that will have on our economy," Schmelzer is quoted as saying.

This has me scratching my head, because just a few weeks ago she said we had a housing shortage. I also think she is misguided about the number of cash purchased versus mortgaged purchased properties. If she really cared, a quick search in the treasurer's office would clear up her misconception.

The marijuana market seems to be caught in an oversupply situation, but this will not be the end of the industry. Do you remember back in 2000 when we had about 2,000 search engines for the internet? Well today, we are really down to three: Yahoo, MSN and Google. Isn't it funny how the market has a way of straightening itself out without the heavy hand of government?

The labor pool is another area Schmelzer is concerned with. Yes, it is a problem when it comes to drug testing. And there was a bill last year at the state level that was going to address this issue, but at press time I can't find out any information about its current status. She goes on to say pot farmers pay better and that is hurting the more traditional businesses because owners feel they can't compete. Well, that may

be true, but we live in a capitalistic society.

In the same article Schmelzer is credited with the theory that "children are dropping out of school, or make no plans to further their education, because they believe they can make more money in the cannabis industry." Again she has zero data that backs up her claim.

When she makes these claims without the data, it appears she is reaching into her manure bag (what horses wear in parades) and starts tossing out road apples.

Schmelzer has shown to me to be someone that after she speaks, everything must be vetted and verified. Her speech resembles that of someone who may have eaten too many road apples.

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

Reminder: There will be no issue published January 3, 2018

Letters to Santa:

Ms. Gill's first grade

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good! I would like skates. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Laloni

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a Castle ("Kasl") Merry Christmas! Your friend, Elizabeth

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a Tablet Bb gun Merry Christmas! Your friend, Jonnithan

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a I Pad Merry Christmas! Your friend, Analise

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good I would like a Minecraft Lego Merry Christmas! Your friend, Rylee

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good I would like a games Merry Christmas! Your friend, Chris

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been nice and good. I would like a "bic" (bike) Merry Christmas! Your friend, Ria

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a xbox1 Merry Christmas! Your friend, Keyan

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a I Pad Merry Christmas! Your friend, Izick

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a nintendo Switch Merry Christmas! Your friend, Damien

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good I would like a nintendo Switch Merry Christmas! Your friend, Austin

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good I would like a mermaid tail. for crismus Merry Christmas! Your friend, Grace

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a Nintendo Switch Merry Christmas! Your friend, Vivienne

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a I-phone5 Merry Christmas! Your friend, Love, gracie

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a I-phone 5 Merry Christmas! Your friend, Love Jocelynn

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good! I would like a Lego Mind Craft Steve and Alex set. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Brodey

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good I would like a remote control car. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Isaac

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good I would like a Shopkins and a friend. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Charlotte

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a games for my X Box Merry Christmas! Your friend, Asriel

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good. I would like a 4 pack LPS. Merry Christmas!

Your friend, Love Aaliyah

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been nice. I would like a Nintendo Switch. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Justin

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been good I would like a Lego game with 2 mind craft players. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Tristan

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been very good I would like a I phone 7 Merry Christmas! Your friend, Leona

Dear Santa, How are you? This year I have been kind and safe. I would like a game boy and a Santa hat Merry Christmas! Your friend, Alex

Obituaries

Sally Ann Jones (Kidwell) 71, of Mountain Home, Ark., died at her daughter's home Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017 with gratitude for the hospice care she received.

Sally was born in Indiana to John Kidwell and Mary Kidwell. She was the second youngest of ten siblings and the youngest girl. Sally married Ronald Kirkbride in 1963 and the result of that union produced a daughter, Kari Sylvia. Sally married Warren Hoogendoorn in 1969. This marriage produced a daughter, Laura Sharp. The family was stationed to Southern California with the U.S. Navy. Sally met and married her third husband Daniel Jones in 1974. They retired to Cave Junction, Ore. in 1987. Sally became a widow on Nov. 4, 1998. Sally moved to Arkansas in 2010 after suffering a stroke.

Sally was a certified scuba diver. She loved karaoke, dancing, camping and fishing. While Sally didn't really like to cook, she was

raised on a farm and could produce a wonderful "stick to your ribs" meat and potatoes meal. Sally could just about "out eat" any man at the table. Thanksgiving and Christmas were her favorite times of the year. Sally was 5-foot tall with a 6-foot upper cut. #metoo

She is survived by her daughters; Kari Sylvia of Mountain Home, Arkansas and Laura Sharp of Cave Junction; six grandchildren, Michael Grunwald, Lukas Grunwald and Grant Grunwald of Mountain Home, Ark., Karissa Eaton of Steelville, Mo., Cody Gillson of Tucson, Ariz. and Keyla Kitchin of Selma, Ore; eight great-grandchildren; little brother, Tony Kidwell of Ohio; and an older brother, Chuck Kidwell of Fla.

Services will be private. Arrangements are under the direction of Roller Funeral Home. Please visit our online guestbook at www.rollerfuneralhome.com/mtnhome.



ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date

Dec. 23

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa at Lorna Byrne Middle School, 102 S. Junction in Cave Junction from 10 a.m. - noon Saturday, Dec. 23. Toys are available for children presented by the Rotary Club.

Jan. 4

I.V. Wrestling Lasagna Dinner Auction Jan. 4 at the Senior Cneter, 520 E. River St. in Cave Junction from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Come Support I.V. Wrestling, Adults \$10, Children \$5 and the auction starts at 7:30 p.m.

Continuing

Your public library has activities happening every week! New Storytime reader, Mel-

nie, has crafts and stories for kids of all ages Saturdays at 12 noon. Families at Play baby-parent group is for babies the first Wednesday of the month from 1-2pm. Early literacy skills are taught within a thirty-minute storytime of songs, bounces, and reading, followed by a half-hour of play and chat time. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4770. IV 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 neighbor-

hood 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, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 10 to 2. 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 cjpgatrol.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.

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