



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Floyd Greenlee Jr. known as Bubbles or Bubba now has a house on wheels for himself and his dog, Bonnie. While

I think it looks better than the old "Bubba Cabana" aka shopping cart, it creates new problems.

I think it's great the man now has a place to store his stuff and get out of the weather, but this issue leads me to question, what is the city going to do about this? Are the houses on wheels going to be licensed? Where can you park them? Why can't I live in my RV at my house or lot? In my opinion, the city needs to be consistent in application of codes.

Another issue the city needs to deal with is the shopping carts. They are everywhere in town, and they are not cheap. From what I can find a standard cart costs around \$200. Cities across Oregon, California, Arizona and even Wisconsin, now have rules that fine stores for not collecting their carts. While I hate to put the onus on the store owners, the carts do belong to them.

Speaking of problems regarding the homeless or bums,

as some call them; many of them are trashing our town. Now that winter is here they seem to migrate to our office as it's covered, and that's OK with me. What's not OK is all the trash they leave.

Fast-food containers, miscellaneous clothing items, cigarette butts, food wrappers, canine and human feces are the norm. I'm at my wit's end, especially since I get to watch them do all this after the fact when I play back the night's video.

I try to be consistent and let them know I don't mind them outside my office at night as long as they pick up after themselves. It reminds me of the saying "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." And in this case, trash.

I don't know what I expect the city to do about this problem, I know in the end they can do very little.

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 The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity.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.)

What if I told you my goal in life was to, "Make Nicole Great?"

I imagine that you'd think that I needed to reign in my ego, might lack a moral center, and definitely lacked maturity.

In their book "Character Strengths and Virtues," psychologists Christopher Peterson and Martin Seligman identify six broad virtues that consistently emerge across history and culture: wisdom, courage, humanity, justice, temperance, and transcendence.

People with these sorts of values don't aim to

be bigger and better than others. People of character work hard, care about others, and avoid bragging. People with these values measure success based on their ability to do the right thing in spite of adversity. People with these character strengths are thoughtful, fair, and brave.

'Great' is a value defined by its relationship to something less great, small or mediocre. People who see life as a stage for greatness believe themselves to be superior, approach relationships competitively, and are consumed by status. They want to be first, have more, and get noticed. People who are defined by greatness put others down and are only truly liked by those who want what they have or those they are manipulating to get what they want.

The USA is just as ugly with greatness as our aim.

I'm a progressive democrat who believes that it's time to embrace a traditionally conservative focus on character. It's not what we get, or what we have, or even what we do that matters most. It's who we are.

Nicole Rensenbrink
Cave Junction

Reader wants people to show some love for our forests

Now correct me if I'm wrong, don't the citizens of Jackson and Josephine county pay for services to protect our Forest land? If yes, then why aren't they doing their job? Correct me again if I'm wrong, but doesn't the forest service have their own law enforcement officers? They call them Forest Rangers, right? What exactly is their job description?

I went up Onion Mountain Rd. and less than an eighth of a mile I saw garbage dumped everywhere. I couldn't believe how bad it was. But what really got me is when I went up Savage Creek Rd. about 3 miles and saw pretty much a whole house dumped. There was a hot tub, refrigerator, stove, couch, chair, toilet, and house hold garbage. I passed a sign that said "Smile, your on camera!" You mean to tell me that you have video of vehicles loaded with garbage and coming back empty and you didn't report it? I don't know about anybody else but I love the forest. They are abusing and killing our forest. The law needs to

start focusing on stopping these people and making them clean their garbage up. Their teaching our kids it's okay to do that because nobody cares anyway. I say fire these people and find someone else to do the job.

Allison Growley
Cave Junction

Ways of Knowing

To some of us, truth and reality are derived purely from our perceptions; they are 'just what we think.' To others of us, truth and reality are the actuality of phenomena; they represent what actually exists regardless of our perceptions. While many of us operate in the 'opinion-based' world, science seeks to understand actually how our physical world works.

These differences present immense barriers to communication.

When the scientist offers conclusions based on what the evidence suggests, he/she is indicating what the product of extensive research suggests is the actual reality. This research is committed to attempting to falsify the conclusion derived. When a scientific conclusion is presented, we understand that extensive efforts to falsify it have

been tried - and have failed to deny it.

In the perception-based reality, we don't subject opinions to the rigorous tests of science, we don't try to falsify them. Rather, we seek evidence to support and confirm our idea.

The barrier to communication occurs because the perception-based realist thinks the ideas of the actuality-based scientist are derived from their own flimsy thinking process.

When science/scientists offer collective conclusions on an issue, we dismiss these conclusions as 'just what they think' at our peril.

Alan Journet
Jacksonville

Reader says tax bill will destroy our future

The Senate/House tax bill conference committee recommends allowing oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Many proven alternative energy choices can replace oil and gas but there is only one Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge includes precious habitat for species ranging from polar bears

and caribou to nesting birds and waterfowl. These migrating birds touch all 50 states and nearly every continent of the globe.

This Arctic attack ignores the will of the American people. For decades a majority of voters have urged Congress to protect this irreplaceable ecological treasure. While completely violating the rights and treaty obligations to the Gwich'in people of the US and Canada, drilling proponents claim that lease sales will generate as much as \$1 billion in revenue over the next decade. To barely address over \$1 trillion in tax cuts for corporations and the rich this would destroy our Arctic Refuge. Republican abuse of the budget process would sacrifice one of the nation's most ecologically and culturally significant places for a paltry federal benefit.

Americans who care about our future should call their Federal representatives and tell them to remove Arctic drilling from the 'Tax Bill'.

Yours truly,
Dennis Specht
Medford

Obituaries

Marie Mac Kechnie, 79, passed away on the afternoon of Jan. 5 surrounded by her children. She was married to her late husband, David, for 60 years. They passed within three months of each other as they have never been apart long.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa. and raised in Van Nuys, Calif., Marie attended and graduated from Van Nuys High School. She married David in April of 1957 and their great love story began. Marie became a bookkeeper for a number of companies while raising their three children. She celebrated everything and made every holiday and occasion special. Her favorite day of the year was St. Patrick's Day as she celebrated her Irish heritage with great pride. Her nickname was "Mad Dwarf". Marie discovered her great passion and talent in oil painting and pursued it for many years.

Marie and David moved to Cave Junction in 1988 and never looked back. They fell in love with the people and beauty of Oregon. They started D&M Rooter together while David did the labor and Marie kept the books. Together, they served the people of the Illinois Valley proudly.

Marie is survived by her son, Scott; her daughters, Lisa and Michelle; her grandchildren, Ashley, Caitlyn and Hannah; and great-grandchildren, Brady, Harper and Samuel.



ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Save the date

Jan. 13

Planning Ahead: "Planting Your Garden for Preserving" is a class to assist gardeners in planning their gardens for maximum benefit. All are welcome to attend. This free class will be held in the dining room of Community Bible Church at 113 S. Caves Avenue, on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m.

Jan. 21

"Fostering Family Morale & Support," Trauma-Informed Self-Care and Family Care class, Led by Jerry Allen, LMFT, SEP, MPH, Anishinaabe Medicine Man & Coach, Date/Time: Sunday, January 21, 2018, 1-3 p.m., Place: Unitarian Universalist Hall, 129 NW E

St, Grants Pass. Cost: \$25 - 15 sliding scale per family, no one turned away, bring whole family, friends, grandparents, teens & tweens welcome, singles \$12 (a portion of proceeds goes to saving the old growth forests.) For more information email jerryallengitfiddler@gmail.com

Jan. 23

Freddy & Francine, Americana - Soul duo will perform live at the Takilma Community Building, 9367 Takilma Rd. for a KXCJ Fundraiser, Tuesday, Jan. 23, Doors: 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 - \$20 sliding scale, light dinner & desserts. For more info call 541-592-4112.

Feb. 3

Oregon Humanities presents "Talking about Dying" a community conversation Feb. 3, 2018 starting at 10 a.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River Street, Cave Junction, 541-592-6139. This Conversation Project program provides an opportunity for participants to reflect on what stories and influences shape their thinking about death and dying and to hear perspectives and ideas from fellow community members. Sponsored by Illinois Valley Family Coalition and Clear Creek Family Practice. Refreshments will be provided.

Continuing

*Illinois Valley Community Watch Meet-

ing 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.

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