

Bob's Corner

Through our nearly 38 years of being in the throes of marital blessed bliss, my wife, Jan, always has attracted a certain amount of attention. She has a knack for it. And since last week, she has drawn even more stares than usual. To answer the most prevalent question in the eyes of the stare-ees: No, I did not smack her on the head. I am not a wife beater.

What happened was that she was outside, near a bench that was on its right side. Suddenly a shot rang out. No, scratch that. Suddenly she heard noises involving a motor vehicle and an animal. As she cares for all helpless creatures, including El Jefe, she reacted.

Unfortunately, her reaction to respond resulted in a minor sort of calamity for her. That darn bench reached out and tripped her as she spun toward the street. That wasn't enough though. That vicious bench not only tripped her, but when she completed her graceful dive to the deck, the bench extended part of itself so that Jan's right eyebrow area made extreme and prejudiced contact.

An immediate gusher of hard-earned plasma resulted. To make this long story a trifle shorter, she ended up having five stitches and a tetanus shot. Ouch. It hurt me to watch, as I've been so amused in the past that I was kept in stitches for some time.

At this point, slightly more than a week past the Incident of the Bench, she (my wife) is doing well. She removed the stitches herself, being an independent kind of cuss (but extremely loveable). And she has a colorful "black eye." I mean, she's got a palette of red, purple, green and yellow that could qualify for modern art.

Thank God that she didn't injure herself worse. Actually though, a couple days after Suture City, she mentioned that she felt as though she'd been a motor vehicle crash. I pointed out, in a nice way, that indeed she had experienced what it is like to be smacked violently by immovable objects while moving forward against them. Something like that.

Since the Fall of her own making, Jan has been saying that she looks like a biker babe. Then she adds, "But you ought to see the other guy." And she's kind of hoping for a distinctive scar.

P.S. Beware of treacherous benches.



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Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: Views expressed in letters to the editor are strictly those of the letter-writers.

We no longer will accept single-spaced handwritten letters. Typed, double-spaced letters are acceptable for consideration. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and highly legible also can be considered for publication.)

Dedicated employees From Robbie Hanson Salem

If not for a small group of dedicated individuals, the Illinois Valley Community Response Team (IVCRT) could not have operated the concessions at Oregon Caves National Monument this past summer. These employees made my job enjoyable and a lot easier.

I was contacted by IVCRT in May, and declined all other job opportunities. Within the first week of June I was moved into my room and ready to live at the Chateau for the entire summer. It is a location where I could assist my hometown, work in a place that I love, and do what I enjoy.

Despite obstacles all during summer, the employees remained dedication. Regardless whether a broken pipe, being short-handed, having broken equipment, or even a nearby forest fire, the employees showed me day-in and day-out the importance of dedication.

There were staff members who willingly worked from 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.; who would make the curvy trip down the hill; and without complaining return to work less than eight hours later. There were employees who worked more than two consecutive weeks without a day off, and never complained.

Employees were cross-trained so that they could cover if a co-worker got sick. When I would thank everyone for going way above and beyond the call of duty, they would respond with a smile, and say that they did it for the guests and to help me out.

It was evident that I was working with an amazing group of individuals.

During the past several years I have had the opportunity to manage several different groups. However, the employees of IVCRT were different because they were not

dedicated to their employer, but they had a love for the Chateau, and were dedicated to each every guest, as well as each other.

I recently made my difficult decision as manager. For various reasons, I resigned. Much thought and many tears backed up my decision. I knew that I was leaving many great employees, whom I now considered friends, and who were now as close as family.

I also was leaving a place that I have come to love during the past three years. The Oregon Caves Chateau is by far my favorite place in which I have had the opportunity to work. I am confident that I will return in the future with a different concessionaire.

The employees gave me one more surprise, just when I thought that they couldn't. When I submitted my resignation, six employees resigned with me. I was amazed to see how dedicated they truly are. I know that I could not have done the tasks set before me if not for the dedication of the other employees.

Above all, I am certain that IVCRT would not have been as successful if not for those dedicated employees.

As a manager, I could not have asked for better employees. I appreciate the backing and sincere concern of those who were supportive.

(Editor's Note: Lynn Boucher, of Cave Junction Cares, is leading an effort to provide homemade cookies and other items to Biscuit Fire personnel at the Lake Selmac Fire Camp. The following was offered for this column).

'Biscuiteers' appreciate cookies

**From Mike Morcom, incident commander
Blue Mountain Inter-agency Fire Team
Grants Pass**

Dear Cave Junction Cares:
 Just a quick note to let you know how much the Blue Mountain Interagency Team appreciated the homemade cookies, postcards and stamped envelopes you donated to our firefighters while we were assigned to Zone 1 of the Biscuit Fire.

The cookies were a huge hit, and the postcards and stamped envelopes were very useful.

It is obvious, from the many "Thank You" signs along the travel ways, and your organization's generosity, that Cave Junction really

does care. Please pass along a big thank you to all your members -- their thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Walt Freeman help From Martha Hodges Cave Junction

We have so much to be grateful for in this valley. How glad we are that the fire was stopped before it caused much damage to human habitations.

How glad we are that so many people responded and helped -- the firefighters, the ones who housed our animals, the ones who served food and gave such kind care.

I have one more person I appreciate for his role. Because of him, the fire crews were able to access the fires out in O'Brien much quicker than they possibly could have without his assistance. Because of him, the folks of O'Brien and the areas farther to the east, like Takilma, were kept safe.

I wonder how many people realize that Walt Freeman's roads, created for mining, were used by the fire crews. They had immediate access. New roads did not have to be built to get the people in to do their jobs. The fire lines went in much faster because of Freeman's roads.

I can say, "Thank God" that those roads were in place. They helped protect many of our people.

Fire opportunities From George Fence Selma

It's unusual that I feel called upon to respond to articles or letters to the editor printed in our newspaper.

However, the paid political perspective, "Wildland Arson," printed two weeks ago obliges me to comment. I submit this both as a resident, as well as an IVCRT member.

Speaking as a resident and one who is genuinely concerned about our region's future has caused me to "get involved" in local affairs with the aim being to contribute to and support the efforts of locally inspired remedies to our cause of discontent.

It's my belief that we are capable of bridging the errors and prejudice of the past (call it social change or cultural maturity) and that most people want to share in the real joy of building a stronger, smarter, more prosperous and more caring community. To accomplish this, false assumptions need to be debunked; and even hostilities between factions reconciled.

The divisive elements within weaken our ability to overcome the forces pressuring us from without and will prevent us from taking advantage of the post-(Florence) Biscuit Fire opportunities.

The question of who is right and who is wrong is often no more than rhetoric when used to advance one side over the other. But using conspiracy theories to discredit and alienate one group from another is inflammatory and destructive to the spirit of community. I personally find this unacceptable.

One community organization (IVCRT) has attempted to create a positive space for those who would work together, listen together, and

Continued on page 3

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IVHS Activities Calendar
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THURSDAY, SEPT. 12
 Girls volleyball at North Valley 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.
 Boys soccer at North Valley 4 p.m.
FRIDAY, SEPT. 13
 Varsity football at Gold Beach - 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, SEPT. 14
 Girls soccer vs. St. Mary's Here - 10 a.m.
 Boys soccer at Mazama - Noon
 Varsity football vs. Hidden Valley - Here 1 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPT. 17
 Volleyball at Lakeview 5:45/6:30 p.m.
 Boys soccer vs. Hidden Valley - Here, 4 p.m.
 School Board meeting at Wolf Creek - 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18
 Assembly - 'Making High School Count' - Freshman only - 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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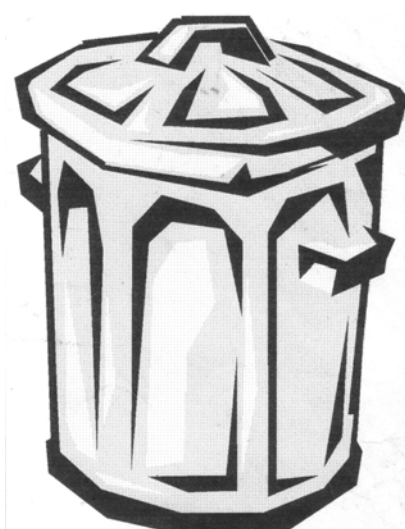
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