

Here, There & Everywhere

'NOOSE' GOOSE - Due to circumstances nearly beyond our control, the "Noose" has instituted a new deadline for letters, announcements and display advertisements: 3 p.m. on Fridays. One more time: Letters, announcements and display ads must be in the office by 3 p.m. Fridays. Display ads also will be accepted on Mondays until noon, but the rate will be \$4.50 per column inch instead of \$4. Classified ads will continue to be taken in the office until noon on Mondays.

AUCTION ACTION - Bidding will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10 in Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. in Cave Junction at the annual Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce auction. Numerous items, including \$100 worth of Rough & Ready Lumber Co. product, wine, telephones, gift certificates, services and "Noose" subscriptions have been donated by valley and some Grants Pass merchants. Jim Frick, of Century 21 Harris & Taylor, will be auctioneer; and Anna Swett, of Anna's Attic, will lead the clerking table. The chamber's largest fund-raiser of each year is known for providing an evening of fun and bargains.

TREE FLEE - The city of Cave Junction will accept clean Christmas trees at the wastewater treatment plant at the end of N. Sawyer Avenue off W. River Street through Friday, Jan. 10 between 8 a.m. and noon; and on the weekend from 8:30 to 9 a.m. For more information: 592-2156.

GRAD STAND - The next meeting to plan the Grad Night Party for the Illinois Valley High School Class of 2003 will be held on Monday, Jan. 13. The informal gathering will begin at 5 p.m. in the school library. Parents of senior students are encouraged to attend. For more information, attend the meeting, or phone Janie Pope at 592-2116.

DÉCOR STORE - Winners in the annual IV. Chamber of Commerce Christmas Decorating Contest have been announced. Top choice in the indoor category is Treehouse Florist & Gifts in Downtown Cave Junction. Selected for the outdoor category prize is A+ Mini Storage at the north end of CJ.

CHAMBER RANGER - Five persons are nominated for five seats on the I.V. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Chamber members have received ballots in the mail. Incumbents are Kim Kemper, Lancaster Rolling Video; Corky Quen, Evergreen Federal Bank; and Bob Rodriguez, "Illinois Valley News." New candidates -- to replace Joe Krauss, Rough & Ready Lumber Co., and Lee Paxton, frontier/Citizen Communications -- are Martin San, Cave Junction Lions Club; and Monique Allen, TC Computers. Write-in candidates, as long as they're chamber members, are allowed; and the deadline to return ballots is Wednesday, Jan. 15.

GOP TREE - Oregon House Republicans elected Rep. Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village) Speaker of the Oregon House late last year after the Republicans increased their majority from 32 to 25 seats. Also elected: Speaker Pro Tem/Rep. Lane Shetterly (R-Dallas), House Majority Leader/Rep. Tim Knopp (R-Bend), and House Majority Whip/Rep. Rob Patridge (R-Medford).

NOTEPAD - Harvest Kitchen at St. Matthias Episcopal Church in CJ, with more than 5,000 pounds of donated food and nearly 3,400 volunteer hours, served 5,090 meals during 2002. Harvest Kitchen is not sponsored by the church, which allows the volunteers to use its facilities. For more information phone Linda Butler at 597-4383 ... **The city of Eugene**, the state's fourth-largest city, is gaining population rivaling Salem, according to Portland State University's Population Research Center. Based on the 2000 census, Salem had a 27 percent growth rate during the 1990s and has a population of 136,924; and Eugene 137,893 ... **A prayer meeting** for Illinois Valley women will be held on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 a.m. at Living Alternatives, between Klamath First Bank and Carlos' Restaurante in Downtown CJ ... **"Science Is Fun"** is the title of a presentation planned at Dome School by Oregon Museum of Science & Industry on Feb. 8. Registration is under way, and there is a fee. Phone 592-3911 ... **"One Man's Search for Justice"** is the theme of valley resident Ray Karczewski's interview last month on John Stadtmiller's National Intell Report radio talk show. It can be heard via home computers at www.arkenterprises.com/intelrpt.html ... **Bumper sticker:** Normal people make me nervous ... **T-shirt:** I don't have an attitude problem, jerk ... **Another T-shirt:** Errors have been made. Others are to blame.

LAST WORDS - +To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it. (John Churton Collins)

+The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between political parties either, but right through every human heart. (Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn)



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LOST DOG

Our plans miscarry because they have no aim.
When a man does not know what harbor he is making
for, no wind is the right wind.
- Seneca -

Letters to the Editor

'Oil first'
From Larry A. Stein
Cave Junction

War, war, war. That is all the Bush Administration seems to have on its agenda. That and cutting taxes.

No thought to the thousands of young men and women who will come home in body bags, and the hundreds of billions of dollars that will be spent on thisiasco.

Where will the money come from? First it will come from our youngsters, whose educations are being sadly neglected. Then it will come from our senior citizens, many of whom have to choose between eating and needed medication. Then it will come from our Baby Boomer generation, which will watch as Social Security vanishes.

Bush certainly fiddles as our economy goes up in smoke. Oil first and everything else can go to Hell.

And where is the state government in all this? Sucking up millions of dollars with the lottery and other forms of legalized robbery.

Where are all the promised benefits from this supposedly fantastic bonanza? Instead, we spend more dollars on curing compulsive gambling.

Bah, humbug.

'The War'
From Will Schneider
Cave Junction

When I stop to contemplate the state of affairs in our world today, I experience a roller coaster ride of emotions ranging from frustration to anger, rage, and yes, sometimes straight-up hatred for some of the people, who, because of what they do, cause misery throughout the world.

And, at this time, are collectively putting life as we know it on Earth in extreme jeopardy, more so now than ever before in the history of human kind.

From Afghanistan to the U.S., from Chechnya, to Indonesia, from Iraq to North Korea, from north to south, east to west. From the priests who abuse children, to corporate thieves running off with more than enough money to feed all the world's starving children. I am one angry man at times.

I find myself praying a lot these days. When I pray I don't ask the "Great Spirit" to fix this or that, or to punish these or them, but I pray for patience, compassion, and humility.

Patience to realize that in

the long run throughout eternity, all is well in the heart of God.

Compassion to help me realize that we as a human race are so close. We feel the same things. We get angry when hurt. We mourn for our dead. And we seek love. At times, wherever we think we may find it. Humility, I believe, may be the most important, for it is the place where lessons, hard lessons at times, are learned. Lessons about immutable cosmic law.

It is so easy to slide into the realm of conceit, thinking we are better than others and to give ourselves the "okey-dokey" to hate a despot, an abusive priest or a thief, but here's the catch. Whenever we hate, be it a little or a lot, we dip into the same pool of darkness that evil, throughout the ages, has used against us.

I feel a need to voice, in some manner, my utter dismay at times at the things people do and say and what we allow through our silence to happen. I do not want to be guilty of complacency in the face of evil.

Through our actions during the past few thousand years, of dividing with borders, the Earth and its resources and the continuing materialistic approach to a spiritual existence, thereby creating greed, we have created a situation wherein our warriors, it seems, are necessary. Maybe these days more than ever before. But history has shown that war does not bring peace.

It only buys time. And makes very wealthy those who manufacture and sell weapons.

Peace comes at the high price of each and every human heart. Collectively or individually, the light comes through the heart. It is the one and only long-term solution that will put down the darkness.

We, the people, needn't feel helpless in the face of the long, dark night. We can, through simple acts of kindness in our everyday lives, let love shine through us, and if nothing else, there will be that much less darkness and that much more peace.

Hate is hard work. It demands our attention and time in order to exist. Love, on the other hand, is endlessly universal, existing with or without us. Love transcends religion, race, and language. If proof or a miracle is needed, just look around at the absolute perfection of our natural world and the stars above.

Love is the great conqueror of the dark, and our only legitimate weapon in the continuing battle for the human soul.

The real war is not in Afghanistan, Iraq, North Korea, Chicago, or L.A., but in our collective heart. May almighty God help us in our daily efforts to bring more peace to our troubled world in this and the coming years.

Measure 28 money
From Ellis Couron
Cave Junction

Here we are again with another money measure (28) from the folks who wanted to be representatives of the people, but after getting the job can't seem to cope with the responsibilities.

They all seem to have the same agenda. When money is short, delve deeper into the taxpayers' pockets; when there is excess, establish a new program to spend it.

Why is it that all of those "new programs" never seem to go away during a recession? If those spending tax money manage their own households in this manner where do they get the extra funds when they overspend?

Understanding fiscal responsibility is part of their

job, and when was the last time a "temporary" tax increase was rescinded? What happened to the state surplus a couple years ago that was required by law to be returned to the taxpayers? Has anybody seen that refund lately?


And the lies told about the bad things that will happen to the poor little children, unwed mothers, school programs, fire and police departments., etc., if the money is not forthcoming are commensurate with the mentality of a 9-year-old having a temper tantrum.

I heard the same lies years ago in California during the Prop. 13 days, after the people passed that measure to protect their homes it was reported that state government "found" \$7 billion in the state treasury it didn't know it had.

It had been my observation that government at all levels is like a little kid. Give him an allowance on Monday and he will spend it, and more, on Tuesday. Then be back on Wednesday to borrow against the following Monday.

Those spending tax dollars have always had an insatiable appetite for spending other people's money on things wanted, rather than actually needed.

MANSFIELD R. CLEARY



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- Will Rogers -

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