

Bob's Corner

Although Sunday, May 11 is designated as a time to honor people who collect moths, I think that it would be more appropriate to talk about my mom. She's 92, you know, and I thank God that I inherited her sense of humor.

My dad, who died at 88 some 15 months ago, was a good guy in lots of ways. But he had a gnat-size (maybe moth-size) sense of humor. There were times when people would tell him a joke, and he'd sort of grin, with the look that says, "I don't get it, but I'll smile to be polite and save face." Then maybe 30 minutes or so later (or never), he'd suddenly "get it" and laugh. Somewhat.

So my sense of humor didn't go over well with dear dad. Once I switched all the drawers in the kitchen, and got yelled at for that. No laugh later either. Another time I squirted him with a plastic, fake camera he thought was real. He posed for a snapshot, and got really hot when I squirted him.

Fortunately, my mom was there to stand up to him. And as she is several inches taller than he, it worked out well. For me.

This week I'm taking a quick trip to San Diego County to visit my mom, who lives in Oceanside at an assisted-living palace ... er, place. I remember her taking care of me in my childhood illnesses; baking chocolate chip cookies on cold days; laughing at my jokes; attending my school functions. She stood by me in all sorts of circumstances, and I know now that I am blessed by that.

My mom was always there for me. And she still is. She'll be surprised when she reads this because I haven't told her that I'm coming for a visit.

Jan is staying home this trip to take care of our menagerie. And get a break from El Jefe.

Besides my mom celebrating moth-er's day, although she prefers butterflies to moths, I'll get to see our daughter, Vicki, who'll be celebrating her first mom's day as one. And our daughter-in-law in Washington state, Christy, will mark the same milestone. We'll be in touch with her too.

To all children, I say, honor mom. Whether she collects moths or not.

Corrections

In the issue of April 30:

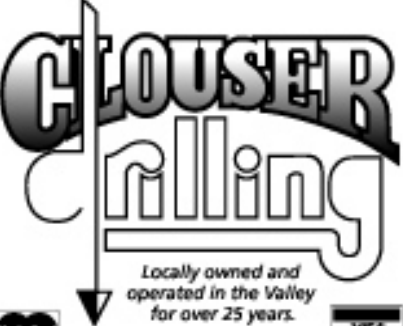
*Information on page 8, under the headline, "Family, I.V. mourn loss," stated incorrectly that a pickup truck driven by Dustin F. Culver, 13, is owned by his parents. The pickup truck is not owned by them; they do not own such a vehicle. "Illinois Valley News" regrets the error.

*In addition, on the same page in the same story as noted above, the following was stated, "Investigation of the situation also involves the boy's driving the pickup, apparently without his parent's knowledge." Culver's mother, S. Culver, wrote: "He had permission to stay at another person's house for the evening. We were not the adult supervisor at that residence for the night.

"Dustin is not the child that took the vehicle," his mother wrote.

"Illinois Valley News" regrets the error.

*In an April 30 story about a forest project at Lorna Byrne Middle School, Allison Cleveland was identified as male. Following publication, Cleveland asked to be referred to as female.



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

Typed, double-spaced letters are acceptable for consideration. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and highly legible also can be considered for publication. Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.)

**'Bring them home'
From Charlene Hall
Cave Junction**

As a widowed sweetheart from the Vietnam War, I think each and every man and woman, who lays down his or her life, in the line of duty, and for God and country, should be hailed, along with the ones who lost their lives for the cause.

I support our "troops" in every way, according to the good, the "greater good" of all mankind.

Still I cannot forget how the word "support" was used in the '60s. What I am asking is: If there is anyone out there who still remembers the slogan: "Support Our GI's. Bring Them Home Now."

**Red Cross aides
From Christine Carter
Cave Junction**

Did you know that the American Red Cross is made of up volunteers from local areas to assist people not only in times of major disasters, but for the smaller personal ones as well?

Volunteers are trained to attend to the needs of people who have lost the use of their homes due to fire, flood, wind damage, etc., even if such damage occurs to individuals on a small scale.

Those volunteers will see that any family displaced by any kind of disaster has a place to sleep, food to eat, and clothing. They will also assist the family to get back on its feet and to return to its normal life as soon as possible.

Many probably are unaware that scientists are predicting a major earthquake (possibly as high as 9.0 magnitude) in Southern Oregon soon. In fact, they're saying we are overdue. Let's hope they're wrong, but just suppose something of the sort should happen.

There's a good possibility that Illinois Valley will be cut off from outside assistance for several days. The Red Cross has supplies available in the valley for just such a disaster. However, there are currently no Red Cross volunteers living in the valley qualified to set up shelters.

Therefore, there could be a major delay before help can arrive -- a delay in which thousands of confused, homeless individuals would be without food, water or shelter.

The Red Cross needs volunteers from our area to serve the residents of this valley on a daily basis. If there are enough people interested in volunteering, the Red Cross will conduct classes in Illinois Valley.

Look around at your friends and family in the area. Wouldn't you like to be able to help them in their time of need? Do you read articles in this paper about people losing their homes and wonder what you can do?

Now you know you can help. Phone Bill Blakely at the Grants Pass Office of the Red Cross (471-7822) and let him know you are interested in volunteering. People do make a difference.

Adventure Race sign-ups stressed

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Bryan Thompson hopes the second time's a charm for Illinois Valley's Wilderness Adventure Challenge.

Only three teams participated in the race around this time last year, joining their mountain biking, running, paddling, and other athletic skills in an attempt toward collective victory.

"The goal is to make the race as unique as possible," said Thompson, a 1996 Illinois Valley High School graduate and event organizer.

Thompson also is a 2000 graduate of George Fox University in Newberg. In addition, as a member of the active Army National Guard he served for nine months in Bosnia.

An avid athlete himself, Thompson came up with the idea for a team adventure race as a way to combine the thrill and surge in popularity of extreme sports with the varying, natural terrains of the valley.

"I think it's a beautiful area," he said.

Not to mention that the race is an opportunity to bring together a variety of people who share a passion, and have them work together toward a common goal.

The event on Saturday, May 31 is hosted by Cross Quest Expeditions, an extreme sports ministry from the area.

"(It's) a practical way of sharing the love of Jesus Christ," Thompson said.

As race director, Thompson has spent the better part of the year obtaining permits, and insurance. Plus establishing logistically challenging mountain biking, trail running, paddling and map and compass orienteering, as well as some "mystery" courses.

"It's supposed to be tough," he said. "It's really an accomplishment to get through it."

Similar to last year, the race will last approximately five hours.

While strenuous, the challenge is tame compared to other extreme sport activities, Thompson noted. Some such races, he said, can last up to several days.

"This is a good one to get your feet wet," he added. "It's a good initiation."

Thompson wouldn't reveal details about the courses this year, only that they will be in and around Lake Selmac in Selma.

"That way people can't train for it," Thompson said. "The element of surprise is key."

Thompson encouraged those not planning on racing to come as spectators. He's also trying to book several bands to play at the event.

He noted that from the beginning, the valley community has shown much support for his efforts.

"That's what is making it possible," he said.

There is still time to sign up for the Wilderness Adventure Challenge. To participate, a racing team must include at least one man and one woman and consist of four people. The race is primarily for adults, although Thompson said a 16-year-old would be

allowed to compete with parental consent.

Teams must provide mountain bikes, compasses and non-motorized watercraft. There is a 40 team limit.

Volunteers are also needed to help during the race, Thompson said.

There is a \$200 per team entry fee for each member's insurance, lunch, raffle ticket and T-shirt. For more information or to register as a volunteer, phone 592-3329.

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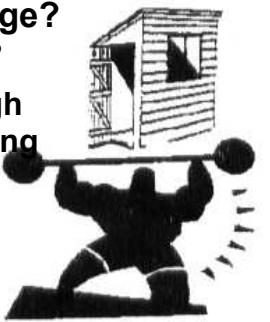
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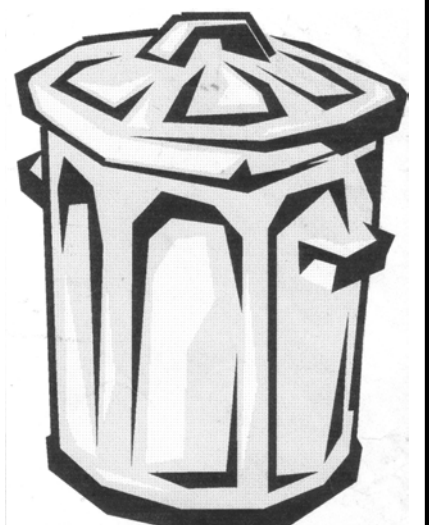
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