

## Bob's Corner

Several years ago we attended a newspaper trade show in Portland, and couldn't find a parking place within a couple of light years from the location. And now apparently, those seeking a parking spot in Downtown Portland have overflowed all the way to Seattle -- because it's not easy to find a slot there either.

Still, we recently had fun with family members, as fortunately we had brought hiking boots, a canteen of water and a GPS. We drove around the Downtown Seattle area seeking street parking, but finally -- as we were running low on fuel -- opted for a parking lot. Still, we were lucky, having to pay "only" six bucks for all-day parking.

We were able to navigate the area around Pike Place Market with little difficulty. (That's what my parents used to call me.) Anyway, the crowds weren't quite wall-to-wall as during summers -- only elbow-to-elbow. The widespread market is a great place to visit, what with all the colorful, eclectic displays of produce, toys, baked goods, T-shirts and other clothing, fresh fish and the like. Not to mention the sidewalk entertainers and the Downtown Seattle Homeless Brigade. Interesting people. We saw several of them purchasing \$3.50 lattes, so I guess times aren't too rough for some. I found fresh-baked pumpkin cookies and was as happy as a clam. I still haven't figured why clams are happy, but ...

Anyway, it was fortuitous that we had decided to visit our son and his family in Covington, not too far from Seattle, at the same time that our daughter and her daughter in San Diego planned to visit them. So there we were: five adults and two munchkins, the latter being 1+ and 8+, sharing Mike, Christy and Kimberly's home in familial togetherness. We were honored to be given Mike and Christy's room; they slept on couches in the living room. Great kids. Vicki and Natalie slept in the guest room.

We had our dogs, "Bingo" and "Rocky" with us, allowing them to sleep in their own guest room, otherwise known as our van. It has a propane heater, so the cold Washington nights didn't freeze them. During the day we would let them run around the backyard, although they would have preferred being inside with us and the family dog, "Snoopy," a beagle mix capable of jumping several feet in the air when excited. I used to be able to do that, but my knees can't handle it anymore.

All told, we had a fine visit, including a good lunch at one of the upstairs eateries at the Pike Place mart. A highlight of that meal was Mikey spilling a glass of Sprite on me, as the table tilted in my direction. He thought it was amazingly humorous, seeing his ol' dad jump up, grabbing my camera away from the tsunami of Sprite. Boy, some people's sense of humor ... I can't imagine where he got it.

On Veteran's Day we drove through a national cemetery near Mike and Christy's home. It was impressive and a bit of an emotional wrench, seeing the numerous white crosses and granite tombstones of those who've died in U.S. military service. Flags lined the drives, and small knots of mourners stood at various locations. We said a silent prayer in honor of the fallen.

Our drive back to Cave Junction was uneventful, thanks first to Mike and Christy leading us to an Interstate 5 on-ramp. I get lost, confused, baffled and bewildered in busy metropolitan areas. At this point that's anything larger than Illinois Valley.

Everyone was glad to get home, including our dogs, although they enjoyed exploring various highway rest stops. Not my idea of a good time, but doggies have their own ideas.

No one can make you feel without your consent.  
- Eleanor Roosevelt -

## Illinois Valley News

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(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Monday with an additional charge.)  
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## Letters to the Editor

**(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.) \*\*\***

**'Another alternative' From Christopher Sabionski Cave Junction**

I am writing to share my views and some facts regarding Forest Supervisor Scott Conroy's proposal for the Biscuit Fire "recovery."

Conroy wants to log 519 million board feet from 29,000 acres (12,000 of which are in the Kalmiopsis Roadless Area). Forest ecosystems depend on rotting, dead trees for nutrients for regrowth and habitat and food for birds.

Forests don't need man's help in fire recovery because fires are a natural part of the forest ecosystem, except when fire is suppressed by man for decades.

Fires clear away underbrush and small diameter trees. Ashes put nutrients in the ground and encourage the growth of mushrooms, which further break down rotten wood.

If Conroy removes these dead trees how does he propose to replace the loss of topsoil? Will he be trucking it in himself? Many plant and tree species require fires before they will produce seed, including Knob Cone Pine.

Forests don't need man to replant after a fire. Most seeds are not burned by fires and germinate when conditions are right. Conroy's plan to reforest after logging the dead trees is a recipe for disaster.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) reforestation plans usually provide for the planting of very few species of trees and all of the same size and age. Forests are most fire resistant when there is a diversity of species and size.

Old-growth trees are very fire resistant and "farmed" forests consisting of uniform-sized trees and species go up in flames. Repeated reforestation is costly and further stresses the ecosystem.

This "recovery" plan would destroy any possibility of healthy tourism. Who wants to visit a forest filled with stumps, and one species of tree neatly planted in rows? USFS reforestation usually involves heavy herbicide use, supposedly to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, brought in by the forest service.

According to ECONorthwest in Eugene, salvage logging costs \$100,000 per million board feet. I don't want my tax money used to subsidize another environmental disaster. And I don't want to go hiking in a farmed forest saturated with herbicides.

This proposal would be the largest logging project in modern times, and if approved would be a blueprint for future ecological exploitation. Be-

cause of its size, it would further depress regional log prices, hurting private timberland owners.

Conroy stated that restoration of the Biscuit Fire is his No. 1 priority. If this is true, then he should leave the forest alone and let nature take care of itself.

We have a duty to ensure the Earth's survival. If we continue to abuse it where will we get our oxygen and clean water? Forests are for all life, present and future. I find it unconscionable that many people, including our own elected officials, would sacrifice our planet by exploiting the ecological impact of a natural phenomenon: Yes, fire.

Many people feel it is our heritage to log the Earth into submission. There are many atrocities in our American heritage that have become outlawed, and rightfully so, including slavery, the abuse of Native Americans and unequal women's rights, to name a few.

Many people are fed up and angry. We don't see any hope in the future, voting processes are questionable, our ecosystems are rapidly vanishing, and speaking out against the government can mark one as a suspected terrorist.

My generation will make a change and will hold the government and its corporations accountable for their crimes and extortions. I encourage everyone, including Conroy, to study how native tribes prescribed fire and helped to preserve the natural cycles of the forest.

The USFS's proposal for the Biscuit area should be canceled and all restoration should be turned over to reputable, private restoration projects that don't have ulterior motives and agendas.

Conroy wants to limit the public input period to a meager 45 days, and during the holiday season when most people are distracted and very busy. Considering the ecological impact of his proposal, that is unacceptable.

We need to let Conroy know that our comments should be heeded, and not discarded if the forest service doesn't like what it hears.

We pay our government officials and if they are not living up to the demands of responsible people then we need to find ourselves competent re-

(Continued on page 3)



**HELPFUL HANDS** - With smiles on their faces, members of the Illinois Valley High School equestrian team assist shoppers at Shop Smart Food Warehouse on Tuesday, Nov. 25 by bagging their groceries. The tips the students earned on the job will go to the team. (Photo by Steve Fairchild)

The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce is hoping for dry weather to kick off a peaceful holiday season with the I.V. Holiday Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m.

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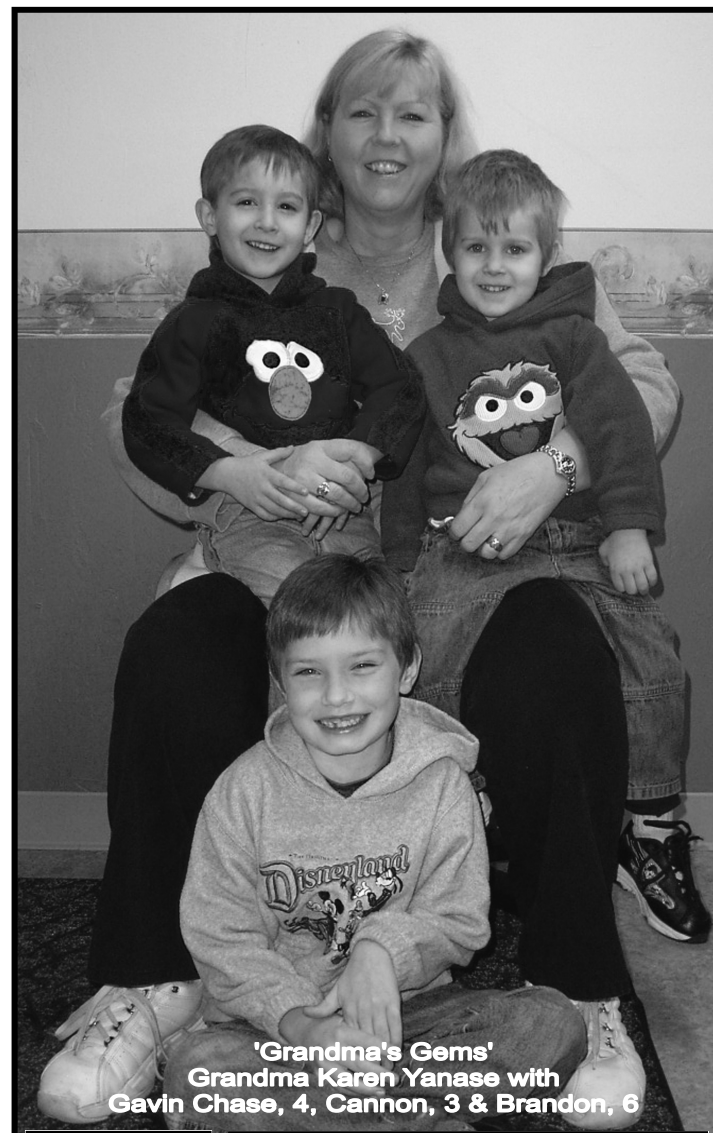
Parade participants will begin lining up at 2 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary School. The theme for the parade this year is "Peace on Earth." To participate in the parade phone the chamber at 592-3326.

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