

# Bob's Corner

During last year's holiday season I wrote about the Eternal and Indestructible Fruitcake (no, I am not talking about myself), but rather the fact that some families keep passing around Grandma Crabbie's fruitcake year after year, not realizing that it's on its seventh cycle of back-and-forth gift-giving.

This reminds me of some folks I used to know in Cave Junction, who gave friends a jar of homemade jam for Christmas one year. When the next Christmas rolled around, the friends gave them a real nice gift: the jar of berry spread they'd received from them the year before. Put a bit of a strain on the friendship. You might say it jammed it.

Frankly, and I'm not speaking of my favorite older first cousin, food becomes somewhat of an obsession during the holidays. People are always giving each other sugar cookies with the shapes of Christmas trees, angels, bells, reindeer, candy canes, Santa heads (kind of a gruesome thought), and other yuletide designs. These cookies usually come with red or green sprinkles on them, for those who need to triple their sugar intake that particular hour.

Other types of cookies show up too, including macaroons that look like hairy meteorites. Some even taste that way. A lot of people bake chocolate chip or peanut butter chip cookies. They're the kind that go down so easily that before you know it you've absent-mindedly eaten the entire plateful and your wife is upset because she was going to give them to friends and families, and now you've made a Christmas Pig of yourself and need something to soothe your stomach. I don't know anyone who would do that, so if my wife says I did, she's either exaggerating or talking about someone else with my name.

Besides cookies, the holiday season usually results in platters of candy including fudge and divinity, and a whole lot of other candy whose names I don't know. But the stuff tastes good, even though I'm not supposed to eat it because of my nonfat/low-fat/low-taste diet. No, that's not fair. Sometimes the air in my mouth, which often gives it a spicy Mexican taste, flavors the heart-friendly food I eat.

Yeah, food and gift-giving seem to go together during this time of year. So break out the hot cider, the mulled wine (whatever that is), the eggnog or hot chocolate (which I can't drink), non-alcoholic beer, the decaf coffee, \$1.98 champagne or whatever you have lurking about for the holidays. Enjoy those special meals, those special snacks and treats. Just don't blame me when you step on the bathroom scale and a sign pops out that reads, "One person at a time, please." I recall one day after the December frivolities a few years ago B.C. (before cardiac), when I got onto the weigh device. It wasn't that I had porked on the pounds, but a sign popped up that read, "Get off!"

Oh, one more thought here. Christmas Day is just a week away from this issue. Start baking those cookies! But beware the fruitcake and the jam.

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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.)**  
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**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.)**  
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**'Vital resource'**  
From William Reid  
Cave Junction

In his Dec. 3 letter to the editor, Christopher Sabionski submitted a "book" disguised as a letter. It appears his multi-column letter could be simply summed up in three words, "no logging ever."

In our modern world wood products play a vital role in our daily life. Our lives are touched by wood homes, wooden furniture, paper from wood and even cancer treatments from yew wood products.

The 29,000 acres proposed for salvage logging is less than 6 percent of the total burn. As far as Sabionski having to hike in a "forest saturated with herbicides," his hyperbole has surpassed reality.

I totally disagree with his premise that this salvage logging will be another "environmental disaster."

**'Kind words'**  
From Denny and Evie Hare  
Cave Junction

We appreciate those who called or sent cards following the heart attack.

We appreciate the staff at AMR Ambulance for being there when they were needed.

Their professionalism and caring manner made all the difference in the world.

Everyone's prayers lifted our family in prayer. Our God is awesome.

**'Wake-up call'**  
From Kelpie Wilson  
Cave Junction

I hope everyone wakes up soon and realizes that the U.S. Forest Service, under the direction of for-

mer timber industry lobbyist Mark Rey, is about to turn the incredible Siskiyou Wild Rivers area into a national sacrifice zone.

The forest service is proposing the largest timber sale in history for the fragile recovering landscape of the Biscuit Fire.

Here's just one example of the potential devastation: Those of us who live in Illinois Valley can see a huge landslide scar on the side of Fiddler Mountain. We can see this scar from miles away, clear across the valley.

This slide started as a road. After the big rain storms in 1996, we saw huge landslides all over the valley that started from roads and clear-cuts.

Under the Biscuit Fire salvage plan, the forest service wants to clear-cut almost all of Fiddler Mountain.

What will happen to our recovering salmon runs when rainstorms wash the devastated slopes of Fiddler Mountain into the Illinois River.



**'HAIRY' POTTER** - An artist prepares stain for ceramic ornaments available to all comers at Cone Ten Pottery Studio & Gallery on Caves Hwy. across from Pietro's. The winter holiday sale at Cone Ten was among attractions during the Second Friday Art Walk on Dec. 12. (Photo by Michelle Binker)

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**THURSDAY, DEC. 18**  
\*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or ham & cheese sandwich, chef, Mandarin chicken or garden salad, Hawaiian, cheese or pepperoni pizza, pasta, meat & marinara sauce & breadstick  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 19**  
\*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or Italian sandwich, chef, Mandarin chicken or chicken Caesar salad, vegetarian, supreme or sausage or pepperoni pizza,  
Corn dog, hot dog, Polish dog with potato wedges or tater tots  
**MONDAY, DEC. 22**  
\*Christmas vacation begins