

Bob's Corner

My late father was so unhandy with routine house maintenance that he would hire a plumber or a handyman to install a toilet seat. I'm not making this up. He had no sense of fixing stuff, and guess what? Right. He passed on that particular lack of sense to the son who lives in Cave Junction.

Here's a classic example from the 1970s of dear old Dad and his fix-it ability: Jan and the kids and I had driven from Poway to the Chula Vista house he shared with Mom in San Diego County for like 44 years. It was a Sunday afternoon. When we arrived, he was standing in the kitchen with his right arm in the air. He had a brown paper bag around his hand.

I said, "Hey, why do you have a bag over your hand?"

He said, "I cut my thumb."

With my curiosity running wild, I removed said bag, and found that his thumb was a multicolored mess. It was also quite swollen. These conditions were caused by the rubber band he had wrapped tightly around the thumb in an effort to stop bleeding. I guess the bag was either so he couldn't see it or to keep the blood off the floor. Maybe he thought that darkness would do something for the wound. But it wasn't working.

My Bob Scout ... I mean, my Boy Scout training immediately kicked in, and I started a campfire. No, I helped a little old lady across the street. No, actually I applied pressure to the proper locations to keep his laceration from leaking anymore. We then applied a bandage and telephoned his physician.

The doc was less than glad to be contacted, as he was on the eighth tee at the nearby San Diego Country Club. However, with his cigar firmly affixed, he met us at his office and somewhat brusquely fixed the wound, what with being a former U.S. Air Force flight surgeon. I think he was in a hurry to get back to the course, as it didn't seem he gave much time for the painkiller to take effect. Anyway, Dad got his stitches and a nice bill (for the emergency medical service), and we took him back home.

Come to find out that he was trying to fix one of those 10-cent ashtrays that motels and other places used to give away. Unfortunately, because of his fix-it skills, he managed to make a dandy slice in his right thumb while trying to get the glue to bond. So the 10-cent ashtray ended up costing him a ton of money (for the 1970s).

There are many other examples of Dad's (not so) handy work, including the time he used 48 nails, none of which were pounded straight, while trying to attach a handle to my homemade wooden scooter when I was about 7. The nails made an interesting art form though.

And that brings us to last weekend, when we (and I use the term loosely because Jan did most of the planning and work) put up two shelves and a paper towel rack at home here in Cave Junction. See, her Dad was a tool-and-die maker, and knew how to do all sorts of construction. My Dad was a pharmaceutical salesman. Actually, all three of our minor construction items turned out pretty well, although both shelves initially looked a bit crooked. A bit of redoing made all the difference.

Didn't end up with any art forms, although some of the ruined screws and messed-up plastic sleeves looked pretty interesting. Guess I'm just a chip off the ol' blockhead.

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.)

For I.V. Bikers From Boaz Dillon, 7 Cave Junction

I appreciate the I.V. Bikers for the toy giveaway. They made a lot of kids very happy and me. When I grow up I want to have a motorcycle like my Uncle Joel.

'Goodbye friend' From Mark Russo Cave Junction

As another holiday season comes and goes, I reflect on the people who have contributed so much to us who are no longer here. 2003 marks the loss of entertainers Johnny Cash and his wife June and comedian John Ritter.

In services to the people we lost U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond and Oregon leader "Debbs" Potts, and now Iver Roy Jackson. If you haven't lived here long of haven't had an emergency, you may ask, who was Roy Jackson? Well, to some he was the guy in the coffee shop, sitting at the corner table with his family and having a smoke. To others, he was the funny and charming instructor who taught area CPR classes. To many, he was board member of the Illinois Valley Fire District, but most remember Roy as I do.

He was a rescuer, a paramedic, and I had the privilege of being his partner on an ambulance for five years. Roy was a gentle man with a disarming, Cheshire cat grin. He was always quick with a joke and never far from a coffee pot. Roy could walk into a room full of people and immediately put you at ease.

Roy was not tall, but he cast a shadow both far and wide, and touched the hearts of everyone he came in contact with. He had the bedside manner of a country doctor, and when he smiled and said, "Hello, I'm Roy and I'm here to help you," you knew he meant it. Roy's calm, reas-

Hourly rate to \$7.05 because of Measure 25

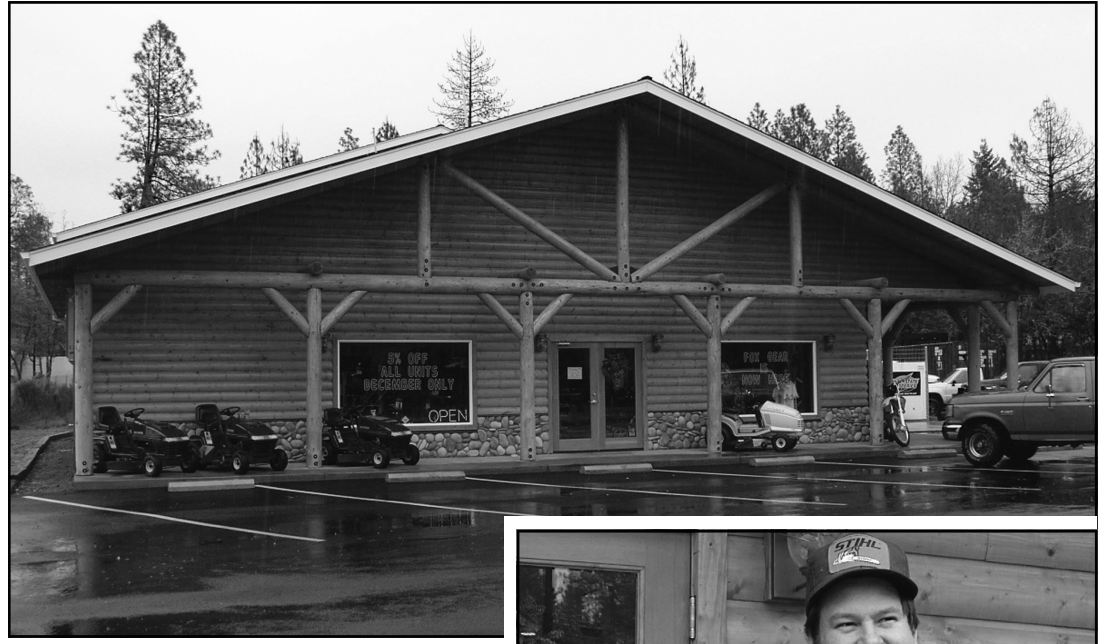
Ballot Measure 25, a voter-approved measure, has increased Oregon's minimum wage to \$7.05 per hour as of Jan. 1.

The measure earlier raised the minimum from \$6.50 per hour to \$6.90 on Jan. 1, 2003.

The annual adjustment rounded to the nearest 5-cents, changes the wage rate for inflation using the Consumer Price Index and becomes effective the following January.

Prior to the passage of Measure 25, Oregon's minimum wage had not

Correction: In a page 1 story last week, Deanette Wearing incorrectly was identified as Deanette Demming



DAVE'S BEST BUILDING - Liz and Dave Paulsen are the recipients of the Best Commercial Building certificate for construction during 2003. The Paulsens are operating their business, Dave's Outdoor Power Equipment, in the new building at Redwood Hwy. and Hamilton Avenue at the south end of Cave Junction. The business offers a wide range of power equipment and motorcycle racing gear.

(Photos by Michelle Binker)



Thank You

for all the kindness everyone shared with us during the loss of our loving husband and father.

Annetta Floyd & Family

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Illinois Valley News

An Independent Weekly Newspaper Co-owned and published by Robert R. (Bob) and Jan Rodriguez
Bob Rodriguez, Editor En Jefe

Entered as second class matter June 11, 1937 at Post Office as Official Newspaper for Josephine County and Josephine County Three Rivers School District, published at 321 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523
Periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523
Post Office Box 1370 USPS 258-820

Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330
Volume 66, No. 42

Staff: Cindy Newton, Chris Robertson, Michelle Binker, Shane Welsh, Becky Loudon & Kacy Clement

Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

3 P.M. FRIDAY

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Monday with an additional charge.)

POLICY ON LETTERS: 'Illinois Valley News' welcomes letters to the editor provided they are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. One letter per person per month. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be levied if a letter is inordinately long in the editor's opinion.

POLICY ON "HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE", DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADS & NOTICES: All submissions must be hand delivered, faxed or e-mailed to us for publication. Submissions must be resubmitted each week if the item is to run for more than one week.

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One year in Jackson and Douglas Counties - \$24.40
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YOUTH IN ACTION

Federal Tax (E.I.N.): 95-380-5759

Student/Participant Letter

As a third-year student working toward my biology degree at the University of Oregon (2000 IVHS grad), I have been selected this summer to represent the United States with hundreds of other students from universities throughout North America on a student volunteer work program in Australia. I am committing myself to a minimum of 120 hours of volunteer work in areas such as endangered species preservation and habitat restoration. The project is coordinated by International Student Volunteers (www.isvonline.com).

This request is to friends and/or businesses for contributions to Youth in Action to help cover the expenses of this summer's program. I will need to raise over \$2,500 in order to secure my place on the Australian team. Any amount you are able to donate (tax deductible) will be greatly appreciated. Contributions must be received by May 15, 2004. The coupon below must be completed and mailed directly to me, with checks made payable to Youth in Action in order to be tax-deductible.

Sincere thanks for your consideration..... Nicholas Leach

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Mail to: Nicholas Leach
P.O. Box 2327
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School: University of Oregon
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