

Bob's Corner

As young children, many of us "ran away from home," which in my case meant taking peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches, Oreo cookies and apricots into the nearest canyon and pretending I was the Durango Kid. I stayed in the brush until my get-away food was gone; then returned home in time for dinner.

Jan and I, although we're no longer "kids," sometimes run away from home together, except that we skip the pb&j and the rest. Actually we sometimes travel on our stomachs, which could be painful and time-consuming if conducted literally. But we're talking about being away from home, and eating in restaurants.

We've found that cruising about the countryside makes us hungrier than usual. So during our most recent expedition we ate breakfast at Patrick Creek Lodge, lunch at the Crescent City Harbor, and dinner in Eureka. And one of us managed a snack in Klamath on the way back to Illinois Valley. It reminded us of camping, when it seems that the high points of the days are breakfast, lunch and dinner; and wondering in-between how long it'll be before we eat again. Must be something about the Great Outdoors. (Bob's Excuse #61).

After breakfast we went across the highway to the Patrick Creek Campground and let our doggies, "Bingo" and "Rocky," check out the picnic area. "Bingo" actually went for a swim in the super-chilly water, and seemed to enjoy it. Back in the van, I said, "Wow, it smells like the Smith River in here." Jan said, "Actually, it smells like a wet dog." And I replied, "Don't tell me that. I'm sure it's the river." She didn't argue, but I could tell she didn't agree.

We decided to take South Bank Smith River Road prior to Hiouchi and maybe visit Stout Grove. As it turned out though, we just cruised slowly through that primeval forest setting and stopped a short distance past Stout Grove to let the dogs out again. We walked a bit on, would you believe, a walking trail, although "Bingo" left us for a short time and went for another swim. I could tell because he was all wet and smelled like the Smith River. Eventually we got back to the van and headed for the south side of Crescent City.

It was a rainy day, but the wet didn't bother us. In fact, having lunch in Crescent City on the second story of a restaurant with large windows overlooking a beach was better than TV. A lot better. As we have no TV programming at our house, I can say this with certainty.

The trip to Eureka was even more rainy, but the views of the Pacific Ocean from Hwy. 101 are awe-inspiring. (Better than TV). We seem to never tire of watching the relentless waves dashing themselves to the shore. As for Eureka, it has become, in our eyes, a crowded and traffic-congested place that's not all that nice to visit. Although Old Town Eureka is interesting.

Returning home in the dark and rain was fun in an odd sort of way. Driving through the elements when they're raging is a true eye-opener about how fragile we are. Jan and I had an enjoyable day away.

But next time we take off, I just might whip up some peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches. It could make traveling on our stomachs a bit easier.

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.) ***

Ode to 'Zippy' From Samuel Quintana Selma

My companion, "Zippity-Doo-Dah," was born on July 23, 2003. He was one of 10 pups born to "Bearly."

The litter was not unplanned or unwanted. They were all loved equally and well cared for.

On Jan. 19 this year, while playing in the front yard of my girlfriend's place, "Bearly," "Zippy" and three other of the pups were shot to death.

This has left our family devastated and scared of the one who did it.

I phoned the sheriff's office to report a violent crime, and a deputy came out four hours later. He asked stupid questions like our dates of birth.

Whatever one calls this situation, perhaps harassment of private citizens and their pets, is uncalled for and rude. I believe that the politicization of law and justice is a dangerous trend in our free country.

It will not bring back

our pets, but life (and death to deal with) are for the living, pro-active few who still believe in true justice and the letter of the law.

We will not take the law into our own hands, but leave it to those public officials who are hired to provide fair, equal service to all American citizens.

The true, tragic issue here is that inept politicalized public officials seem to care more about protecting the public image of their departments than protecting the public from sociopathic criminals.

Response to letters From Lucky Jean Cave Junction

About the "salvage timber" sale in the Biscuit Fire burn area: a little while back on the TV news I caught a brief bit about this issue.

They said that "the trees that are very burned aren't really usable, but the big trees that didn't get burned much, the ones that are still alive, are marketable." In other words, the burned trees aren't worth salvaging, but the live ones are. How is that "salvage?" Sounds to me like it's just an excuse to log some big trees that would have survived anyway.

And about the issue of gay marriage: how does this merit a fraction of the news attention it's getting? Who cares if gay people want to get married? Let them. It couldn't make more of a mockery of mar-

(Continued on page 3)



BLOOD FLOOD - Demonstrating the right to bare arms, a number of Illinois Valley residents made donations during an American Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, Feb. 12 in the I.V. Senior Center. Terry Steel, a registered nurse, attends Carl Lotzgesell. Members of the I.V. Lions Club assisted the project as usual by unloading and reloading the large ARC truck and its supplies. (Photo by Michelle Binker)

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I can think of no more stirring symbol of man's humanity to man than a fire engine.
- Kurt Vonnegut -

One thing I know for sure.
God always comforts the disturbed
and disturbs the comfortable.
- Anne Lamott -

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DEADLINES:

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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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THURSDAY, FEB. 19

*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or ham & cheese sandwich; chef, Mandarin chicken or garden salad; Hawaiian, cheese or pepperoni pizza; beef soft tacos (pasta, meat & marinara sauce, breadstick)

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or Italian sandwich; chef, Mandarin chicken or chicken Caesar salad; vegetarian, supreme, sausage or pepperoni pizza; nachos supreme (corndog, hotdog, or Polish dog, potato wedges or tater tots)

MONDAY, FEB. 23

*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or ham & cheese sub; chef, Mandarin chicken or fiesta salad; vegetarian, sausage or pepperoni pizza; beef & bean burrito (chicken nuggets with biscuit & dipping sauce)

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or roast beef sub; chef, Mandarin chicken or garden salad; cheese, supreme or pepperoni pizza; Chicken fajita (Rib-b-que, potato wedges)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25

*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or veggie sub; chef, Mandarin, chicken or Antipasto salad; sausage, supreme or pepperoni pizza, Taco salad (Rice bowls, chicken or beef, veggies & almonds)



Volunteer Planting Day

Saturday, Feb. 28 - 9 a.m.

Meet at the lower IV Forest
Service Campground

The community needs your help in
planting thousands of seedlings.

You can volunteer to plant trees, bring food,
set up, clean up, or
help in some other way!

If you'll be planting trees be sure to
dress in layers.

If you have planting tools,
it would be great if you could
bring them along!

Come support the community

If you have questions
phone

Leeandra DiFuria

592-4098