

Bob's Corner

Should I recall my first admitted heart attack five years ago and how I thought I could just leave the hospital after my super-quick trip via ambulance, and return to work the next morning? Or should I speak to another subject that’s on my heart, so to speak?

Here’s the deal: Jan and I have lived in Illinois Valley for 18 years, during which time I’ve covered a lot of law enforcement stories. But in the nearly two decades I’ve been kicking around here, which sometimes caused stuff to stick to my shoes, there has not been (thank God) a situation involving a “cop” being shot in the valley. Or anywhere else on his body.

Not to joke insensitively about such matters, but it’s my way of staying sane. What prompted this column is my attending the Police Memorial Day ceremony at the Josephine County Courthouse last Friday. As the names of six officers were read, recalling the circumstances of their deaths in the line of duty in the county, my mind recalled situations in Curry County.

We lived in Brookings for eight years. And during that time, a state trooper was severely wounded by gunfire; a deputy died in a motor vehicle accident; and another deputy, who was a friend of mine, was shot to death in ambush. Not funny situations. But at this point, I can use a humorous spin, despite the somber facts. As I said, it’s a way of coping with sad and bad memories.

About the trooper: Word came that a trooper was shot and requesting assistance near Rainbow Rock at Hwy. 101, not too far north of the city of Brookings. Brookings Police, Curry County deputies and a variety of troopers began responding Code 3. That sort of radio call puts the adrenaline factor way up there. Another photographer and I hurried to the site also.

Officers were swarming the area, while ambulance medics tended to the wounded trooper. We photographers were ready to snap our shutters. But after about 90 seconds of being on-scene, an officer warned us (in very clear and loud terms) to vacate the area. “The suspect is armed and still at-large,” he advised.

Being afraid of live bullets, we vacated (the immediate area). But we were able to obtain good shots (photos) by using telephoto lenses.

Fortunately, the trooper survived his .44 magnum wound. The suspect, who fired the shot after the trooper stopped him for a traffic infraction, was dead at the scene, as the trooper had been able to return fire.

As for my deputy friend, he was dispatched to a residence in the community of Harbor, as a man had asked to speak with him. The man apparently was unhappy with what he considered harassment. When the deputy exited his patrol car and approached the house, he was hit in the heart by a .30-.30 rifle round, fired from inside the dwelling by a man waiting in the dark with a sliding glass door open.

My friend left behind a wife and four children. Not funny stuff. The amusing part – now- is “racing” to the scene with the guy who was my news editor in Brookings. He was a laid-back person; never could get him goosed to hurry to fires or accidents. He even walked slowly.

Same situation getting to the shooting. I elected to let him drive. Big mistake. He wouldn’t hurry; wouldn’t exceed the speed limit even a bit. I was literally shouting at him to speed up, and unconsciously stamping my right foot on the floor of the car to make it go faster. It didn’t help. We were going so slow that kids on bicycles were passing us. Shoot, a little old lady in a walker could have gotten there before us.

So that’s that. Funny recollections after gloomy stuff. Oh, and here’s the bittersweet ending. The man convicted of killing my friend died in prison a while back. His obituary extolled his virtues and what a great guy he was. No mention of my friend, the dead deputy.

And that’s funny. Funny/peculiar; not funny/ha-ha.

Anything is possible if you’ve got enough nerve.
- J.K. Rowling -

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3 P.M. FRIDAY

(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. Handwritten letters that are double-spaced and highly legible also can be considered for publication.

Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.) ***

‘Forks’ helper
From Geraldine Davidson
Cave Junction

I would like to express my appreciation to Rick Newlls for his recent help at Illinois River “Forks” State Park.

A new sink water line that had been vandalized was installed at his own time and expense. This may seem like a small effort, but Rick is a busy man and his generosity should be noted.

Prisoner abuse
From William Schneider
Cave Junction

The fact that the world is now aware of the prisoner abuse in Iraq speaks volumes for the concepts of free speech, free press and, as we are witnessing, the power of the media.

I’m sure that most decent human beings are appalled at the pictures of abused prisoners we have been seeing over and over, pounding into our hearts and minds the despicable

acts of some of those in charge of the prisoners.

I am also quite certain that most decent human beings would be at least equally as appalled at the abuse -- meaning rape, murder, beatings and mental abuse -- that take place within the United States of America prison system.

Equally as appalling, but probably much more so, is the fact that if there were pictures you would not have to show the same photo twice, in a year of every-day showing 10 photos of prisoner abuse within our penal system; acts committed directly by guards or by guards allowing acts to happen.

The overall condition of the U.S. prison system is inconceivably and inexcusably in violation of numerous human rights to the extent of being almost unbelievable that this condition could exist in this country. Every single soul in a position to remedy this and does nothing is accountable and should be removed from any position they may be holding in an office that represents the people of this country, in the same manner as should be done with regard to the Iraq prisoner abuse.

For the sake of space allowed, I will not list statistics at this time. But in a real need to educate the

public about this very serious reality, I will direct anyone who is concerned to: Families Against Mandatory Minimums, www.famm.org; Western Prison Project, www.westernprisonproject.org; and for information on the cruel and inhumane conditions under which women in prisons live, see California Coalition for Women Prisoners, www.womenprisoners.org.

Let’s clean up our own act. It might do wonders for our credibility abroad.

Every prisoner is someone’s mother, father or child, not a number. Wake up America: This nightmare is here at home.

A family in need
From Debbie Jo Bell
Cave Junction

I am a friend of Kelly Blair. She lost all her belongings and home in a recent fire in O’Brien.

This family was not at home and had no chance to save anything. I saw Kelly two days after the fire and she was totally distraught.

I feel I have to reach out to our unique and wonderful community for help.

I would like to express my appreciation to those who helped put Kelly and her family up for a week at the Madrone Motel, donated clothing and money; and the Junction Inn for accommodating them for two days.

I am asking for a trailer for this family, as soon as possible. We are praying for a trailer or something the family can use. Their two girls are staying with friends since the fire.

If anyone can help, contact Bob or Debbie Bell at 592-5206.

I know we can put this family back together if we all pull together.

I would like to thank the
I.V. Lions Club for the scooter,
especially Sam Michel.

Thank you,
Rick Mingo

Little Lambs
Preschool
& Kindergarten

Bridgeview Community Church

5181 Holland Loop Road, Cave Junction

Saturday, May 22 - 2 p.m.



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*Refreshments will be served

Sale of current Station 2
pending new Selma site

By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer

The fate of the current Selma Fire Station will be determined by closed public bids to purchase the property and building after Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) completes work on the new Station 2/Selma location.

During a meeting of the IVFD Board of Directors last month, members voted to approve the sale of the station to a volunteer firefighter. He bid \$45,000, with the stipulation that the decision meet legal approval.

Since the last meeting, IVFD legal counsel advised the district that it would have to advertise the property for public bid, said Chief Harry Rich, during an IVFD Board of Directors meeting Thursday night, May 13 in Cave Junction City Hall.

To ensure the district obtain the best value for the property, after bids have been reviewed, the board will be made aware of the highest bid so it can make a decision on sale of the property.

Rich also updated the

Swiffers buzz
said incorrect

An Internet rumor that Swiffers can harm or kill pets is refuted by the manufacturer and the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

ASPCA’s Animal Poison Control Center said that the “ingredients are safe to use around pets when used according to label directions and would not cause liver damage at product concentrations.”

The manufacturer, Proctor & Gamble, said it is unfortunate that someone is spreading an erroneous rumor. It works closely with veterinarians.

board on the Cave Junction Station and the new site for Station 2.

Plans for Station 1/ Cave Junction have been reviewed by volunteer Lt. Jim Gurley of Selma Station 2, who will ensure that the planned new building will fit on the current Station 1 property.

Rich also noted that the survey of Station 2 property was completed. The estimated cost to construct a building to house the fire equipment and volunteers is \$77,000.

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*Oroweat picnic hot dog buns - \$1.39 lb.

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*PLUS - A good selection of chips, soda, beer & ice

EVENTS:

*Thursday, May 20:
UBA★ Open Mic with host Fred Epping

Dinner Special:
Taylor's Cajun Pork Chops - \$7.95

*Friday, May 21: Tim Wallace with Michelle & Jake

Dinner Special:
Grilled Ahi Tuna with Stir Fry
\$10.95

*Saturday, May 22: Michael Cruz - Classic Rock

Dinner Special:
Grilled Sirloin and Pasta w/Marinara - \$8.95

*Sunday, May 23: Dinner Special:
Fried Chicken w/Mashed Potatoes & Gravy - \$7.95

We're open at 6:30 a.m.

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