

Bob's Corner

Our lives have returned to "normal" after a three-day visit from granddaughter Natalie, 2+, and her super-duper parents, Matt and Vicki.

So our two shy-of-strangers indoor cats have come out from hiding. "Rocky" the raging Pomeranian has settled down after feeling afflicted by Natalie's affection. "Bingo" liked the attention and was quite gentle with her because of his herding instincts.

Our doors are open again, as under Natalie's Rules all open doors must be closed. Various knick-knacks and other loose items, including shoes, have been put back where we normally keep them, as under Natalie's Rules anything not nailed down or under lock-and-key is fair game for relocation.

In fact, she opened my dresser drawer and removed my change container, dumping it quite nicely on the floor. We had a good time together picking up all the coins and keys. Seriously, I got a kick out of it.

And the dogs' water dish no longer has dog food floating around in it, a homey touch devised by "Nat."

We now have several videos memorized after watching them repeatedly with our active little darling from Carlsbad in San Diego County. These include "E.T." and "Thomas and the Magic Railroad."

We had a great time with our guests, especially "Nat," sometimes called "The Natalope." And speaking of loping, I was honored to be invited to run with her up and down our hallway several times on several different occasions (pant-pant). She'd say, "Let's run?" And, of course I'd reply, "Sure, let's go." And off we'd go, racing from the living room to our home office and back again. Then she'd say, "Again?" And off we'd run again. And again. And again.

Besides having the stamina of well, a 2-year-old, she is one smart cookie. She converses quite well on a variety of topics, although sometimes I have to check with mom or dad for interpretation. She enjoyed the children's tour at Oregon Caves National Monument. She kept saying, "I'm in a cave!" Then, because she was so happy, she began singing her favorite "Barney" song. Very cool.

My wife, Jan, is still Nanna, but I'm now Pop-Pop after being PaPa until this visit.

All the Crayons in my Crayola locomotive are naked now, as Natalie doesn't believe they should have wrappers. Bare colors are best. She also thoroughly broke in our couch, leaping like a champion from couch to hassock and back again. And again. She never seems to exhaust her energy, which makes it a trifle tough at bedtime because she wants to stay on the move, but we know it's time to rest. (We're not the least bit tired, it's strictly for her benefit).

My "Eeyore" stuffed replica got a workout, but he's all better now. And so are Jan and I. We miss them a lot, but know we'll see them again.

Excuse me now, I'm going to run up and down the hall and look for naked Crayons.

Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact, are strictly those of the letter-writers.)

Typed, double-spaced letters written solely to this newspaper are considered for publication. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and legible also can be considered. Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.

Veterans Day 2004 From Tina Haemmerlein O'Brien

(Editor's Note: The writer is public relations chairman for Glenn Morrison Unit 70 American Legion Auxiliary in Cave Junction.)

In 1921 an unknown World War I U.S. soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for USA veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an Unknown Soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor: Westminster Abbey and the Arc de Triomphe.

These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of WWI fighting at 11 a.m. Nov. 11, 1918 -- the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The day became known as Armistice Day.

Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of WWI.

But in 1954, after WWII had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the nation's history; after U.S. forces had fought aggression in Korea; the 83rd Congress, at the urging of veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking "Armistice" and inserting "Veterans."

With approval of this legislation, Nov. 11 became a day to honor U.S. veterans of all wars.

On Oct. 8, 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day. The proclamation read in part, "On that day, let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our

heritage of freedom."

It would be good to say, "Thank you," to a veteran this Veterans Day: Thursday, Nov. 11. And wear a poppy to show remembrance, or wear a flag pin to show pride in the United States of America.

We need to show support to the brave men and women who have served our country in the past, our present and the future.

'Let's start healing' From Joe Armstrong O'Brien

Now that the insanity and overheated rhetoric of the lead-up to the election are gratefully lessened, the possibility of a contested result seems a plausible scenario.

I think that it is important for us to start healing. The mood of the country has gotten really mean. It seems that we focus so much more energy on the things that, seemingly divide us, than the vast majority we share.

If we step back for some perspective, I think that it would be instructive to follow the money monsoon. Other than the appalling level of negativity, spite and disregard for any degree of civility or truth, this election was largely about money.

Think about this election's campaigns (at the presidential level alone) having spent more than a half-billion dollars. The corruption of the electoral process at the level is making a sham of our democracy. How can we hope to export democracy to the world when our example

of it is becoming so dysfunctional?

Wealth in and of itself is not a bad thing. The wealth that I refer to is a big part of the picture that emerges when you look at how this is more of a class war than the seeming artificially huge rift between the so-called right and left.

All they need from most of us is our vote to keep them in power; our continued consumer spending; and our complacency about being manipulated. We get our information from sound-bites. We get distracted by hot-button issues that play to passions and promote division.

At the time we were attacked we were told not to sacrifice anything except for some little-used freedoms that we probably wouldn't miss anyway. Just go on spending your consumer dollars or the

terrorists win.

The rhetoric is like Orwellian double-speak: repeated often enough, black is white, lies are truth, war is peace, hate is love.

What I mainly want to offer as a relative newcomer to the valley, which I dearly love, is that at a local level, as neighbors and fellow humans, we can unite to become more productive, content and happy people.

We can support each other with tolerance, understanding and appreciation of our similarities and differences.

When the dominant messages coming from our national leaders promote fear, distrust and outright hatred, we -- as the ones who are affected most negatively -- must come together and reject the politics of hate and fear, and find something better.



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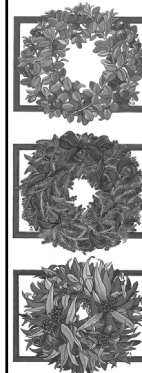
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Thursday mornings 10 to 11, November 18 through December 9.

Cost for 4, one-hour classes is \$50

Supplies are pencils, eraser and drawing tablet.

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Tuesday mornings 10 to noon, November 16 through December 7.

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This workshop will focus on inner and outer self-image. We'll explore our light and shadow side using a variety of media in a safe and non-critical environment.

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Sliding scale \$20 to \$50 for 5-hour workshop.

Sign-up at Blue Moon Café or Studio 203 above Blue Moon. Phone 596-2023.

Private Lessons and Gift certificates for the holidays are available at \$20 per hour.

November Art Walk:
Deborah Dawson will show her newest
work at Blue Moon Café.