

Bob's Corner

We're about out of the 2004 daze and are hard-charging (yeah, right) into the throes of 2005. Reminds me of a poster I saw that read, "Good Morning! Let the Stress Begin!"

Wow: When I was born in the Last Century in San Diego's Mercy Hospital, about a year before the end of World War II, I had no idea that I'd live through the turn of a century. At least, that's what I think the creaking was that I heard at the end of 2000. It could have been some of my joints.

In my younger days my time was occupied by thrills, skills and frills. These days I have to pay more attention to chills, pills, wills and bills. It's annoying to walk into a room and not remember why. Or drive past an intended destination, and then realize that I just passed it. However, I've become quite skillful at making U-turns.

My enduring wife puts up with my forgetfulness; even when I have to phone her back 20 seconds after she's told me what to buy at the store: "Hey, honey, did you say a pound of milk and a quart of cheese?"

Memory gaps notwithstanding, no doubt we will quietly observe the revolution into a new year. I keep watching for that old fella' Father Time and the bright-eyed, energetic Baby New Year, but haven't seen them. They probably show up after I've snoozed into dreamland. Either that or they pass by when I've gone into the next room but can't recall why.

We used to attend New Year's Eve parties, where I was sure we were having fun. Until the next morning, Jan, tolerant of my idiocy, was designated driver, and I always appreciated that the morning after, especially when my head was twice as large as normal.

Haven't done that for many years. Not worth it.

I do not plan any New Year's restitutions ... er, revocations ... recriminations; I mean, resolutions. All the ones I've made previously lasted about a week. Then I forgot about them. Or they were too "difficult."

Facing 2005, I can only say that I'll do better than I did during '04. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it. Don't let me forget.



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Celtic New Year Feast

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005
Kerby Belt Building
11 a.m. to midnight

Good Food * Fire Dancers
Dancing Girls * Tarot Reading * Music
Games * Bards * Henna Tattoo Artists

Feast served at 6 p.m. Food will be available all day.
\$8 - Adults (16+) \$5 - Children (6-15)
Children 5 years and younger FREE, NMS \$3
Family Cap \$25 (no SCA households please)
Dry site, bring feast gear. Please try to wear medieval/
renaissance type clothing - we have some to share.

For more information contact Sharon at
592-2272 or sharon@stephenthemerchant.com

A good name, like good will, is got
by many actions and lost by one.

- Lord Jeffery -

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Fire plan ...

(Continued from page 1)

Joe's Market in Kerby, Selma Community Center, Holland Store, and the district administrative site.

In Selma, the Thompson Creek Project is proving to be quite beneficial, said De Spellman, a volunteer firefighter and IVFD fire prevention coordinator.

Involving defensible space and fuels reduction, the project comprises some 130 acres in the Thompson Creek, Forest Creek and Briar Lane areas, said Spellman. She said that approximately 50 defensible space-type people have been working.

Related to the project, Thompson Creek Road has been resurfaced. And as part of fuel reduction, brush on 30 feet of either side from the center line will be cleared, she said. The same procedure will be applied to Briar Lane and Forest Creek Road, she added.

The Thompson Creek area was chosen for the initial work, she said, because after study, it was determined to be the highest-risk area in case of wildfire.

Spellman has been working with the Bureau of Land Management, I.V. Community Response Team (for funding), and IVFD on the project. BLM, for example, had to survey the area to determine that nothing that needed to be protected was involved.

"We wrote a prescription for the Thompson Creek Project," said Spellman, "and will be moving next to what we're calling the North Selma Project. It will involve the Draper Valley and Indian Creek areas."

She said she hopes that the community will turn out for the Jan. 6 gathering in preparation for the final plan version.

Fuel additive

(Continued from page 1)

improve mileage of many types of vehicles, including jet aircraft; and use a renewable resource in the processing of our product -- 'garbage wood'," he said.

He estimates that a blending plant, where the product with its protected formula would be mixed, could be in operation in Illinois Valley during the first six months of 2005.

The catalyst can be formulated for use in every fossil fuel. These include gasoline, and diesel/bunker and jet fuels, Kurko said.

He added that many millions of dollars worth of grants are available in connection with the fuel work, and that such funding could only benefit Illinois Valley.

He plans to take the company public, but noted that investors before that would be considered. His phone number is 415-1010.

1 hurt in crash

One person was transported by American Medical Response after a two-vehicle crash on Redwood Hwy. at Selmac Auto Service, said Illinois Valley Fire District Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik.

The crash at 18092 Redwood Hwy. in Selma was reported at approximately 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27.

I.V. firefighters had to use fire extinguisher equipment to be able to remove one person from the wreckage.

Specific details of the incident were unavailable in time for this issue.

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.

'Big Brother' From Marvin Sprinkle Cave Junction

Wasn't too long ago that the state of Oregon let it be known that it was looking for a means to tax vehicle mileage.

Folks are probably thinking it can't be done. Wrong! There is an eye-opening article in the January issue of "Popular Mechanics." The article, "Spying On You," is one everyone should read.

The phrase, "Big Brother is Watching You," is now a reality. Just one of the topics refers to automobiles. In 2004, black box data recorders were a standard feature in nearly 70 percent of cars manufactured. They're now installed in about 40 million cars in the United States.

Tiny event data recorders (EDRs) live under the dash or seats and silently record what happens to vehicle in the seconds surrounding a crash. Like speed when the brakes are applied, and so on.

Like black boxes in airliners, they become critical in serious accidents. In fact, they've already been used in court cases involving serious crimes and accidents.

During 2003, the National Transportation Safety Board announced that it wanted EDRs installed in all new vehicles. Only Califor-

nia currently requires owners to be notified if an EDR is on board.

But is it a means for others to monitor your driving habits? Can lawyers demand access for use in civil lawsuits?

A major auto insurer is probing with its fingers in to see what it can do about sticking the Trojan Horse into our driving habits. Just think of all the problems they could lay on us. The problem is that there has to be a line drawn somewhere for the citizens to have protection from all the vultures lurking and drooling over their newfound victims.

True meaning From I.V. Bikers Illinois Valley

It was early morning on Christmas Eve Day, when we heard a strange noise from far, far away.

We looked and looked to see what it was; then we saw the reindeer, the sleigh and Dear Santa Claus.

He pulled on the reins to slow the reindeer down, and quickly the sleigh eased onto the ground. They landed at the I.V. Senior Center parking lot; quickly Santa jumped out and began moving about.

(Continued on page 3)

MASSAGE THERAPY

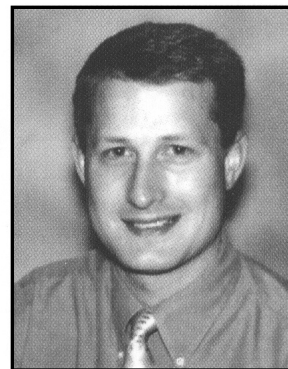
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Wishing you a Happy New Year!
Thank You Illinois Valley
for your support
I look forward to seeing you in 2005

Rachel Goodman, LMT 202 W. Lister - 592-6947

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