

Bob's Corner

(Warning: The following may contain situations that some would consider distasteful, revolting or creepy. Read on at your own risk.)

No one told me that "going camping" with a large group of lunatic men getting away from their families on a three-day weekend could be hazardous to various parts of my body and a large segment of my brain.

But there I was those years ago in the remoteness somewhere in the vicinity of Solvang or Buellton; close by anyway. It was a cold night; cold enough to cause shivers.

"Hey," said one of my spin-headed companions, "chug some of this: it'll warm ya." "What is it?" "It's medicine!" Strangely, the medicine was in a Jack Daniel's bottle, but after a couple of swallows, I did begin to feel warmer. And a lot more relaxed. A couple more swallows, and I didn't care if I was hot, cold, deep fat-fried, shot or powder-burned.

We all stood around a huge campfire, enjoying the sparks and embers, with some campers once in a while leaping in pain and hooting like demented coyotes when the metal studs in their jeans reached high temperatures. One guy was playing a gut bucket. He got so relaxed that he started to fall into the fire. A bunch of us stood him back up straight, and he kept playing without missing a beat.

As the night wore on, another of my fiends ... er, friends ... offered me more medicine. This is weird, I thought, because the remedy he offered came in a Yukon Jack bottle. I guess no one had the original bottles for any of their medicine, because I also saw some with Jose Cuervo and Dewar's labels. Weird.

One guy got so relaxed with all those concoctions that he went to enter his tent, fell on it, and it collapsed in slow motion. As he was already asleep, we didn't bother to stand him up. The next morning he walked around like a broken accordion.

Another camper flopped on his Army cot, and was snoring away when a guy wandering like a lost hippo barged into his campsite and tripped over him. The two guys and the cot went over like a swamped ship. Next day the guy in cot had a huge headache, but didn't know why. No one was willing to enlighten him.

By around 2 a.m. I was warm as a leaky radiator and ready for sleep. I think my friends helped me find my sleeping bag. Seems to be a gap in my memory, although I can't figure why.

Next morning, a trail ride caterer was set up, fixing eggs any way you wanted them, with sausage, bacon and ham, plus potatoes, juice, fruit, pastry, etc. But for some reason I didn't feel like eating.

That was my last camping trip with those guys. Way too much medicine for my taste.

IVCDO grant-writing plans aim to bolster its finances

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

Many changes have occurred this year at the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO), formerly Illinois Valley Community Response Team.

Besides changing its name, IVCDO (pronounced "IVcanDO") has gained a new mission. It's one that has and will continue to benefit the valley's economic and community developments through grant and social ventures, such as management of concessions at Oregon Caves National Monument, 20 miles east of Cave Junction.

However, revenues from the concession are down, not up, which has caused some IVCDO members to worry.

"We don't have government grants any more," said Patty Downing, chairman of the Community Relations

Committee.

"We're just like any other non-profit organization," she said. "We have to hit the ground running to raise money."

IVCDO, which began more than 10 years ago, has helped fund many community projects such as the I.V. Safe House Alliance, I.V. Family Coalition, and computers for valley schools. It has aided Kerby Water District to plan and prepare for providing a steady supply of clean drinking water to residents through an arrangement with the city of Cave Junction.

And the IVCDO list of achievements goes on. However, this could all change, if action is not taken soon, Downing said.

Funds are quickly drying up, as government grants are not flooding in as they used to.

"I've been concerned,

(Continued on page 3)

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Looking for enthusiastic people to join us in our mission. If you live or work in the Illinois Valley, you're eligible to become a member. As a member you have the opportunity to become more involved in the many projects we are working on. All that is required is sign up at the IVCDO office.
541-592-4440
139 S. Redwood Hwy.
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Letter 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.

'Fantastic firefighters' From Carol Crough Cave Junction

We have a fantastic Illinois Valley Fire District staff.

They have responded to my address on many occasions, for reasons ranging from an actual fire to a skunk spraying under my house. They have been very helpful with medical calls too.

I wanted to remind everyone who depends on these wonderful people on a daily basis, without even knowing that they do, to remember to give them a friendly wave, and to extend appreciation.

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We are glad our firefighters are there -- and here.

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