

Here, There & Everywhere

SOFCU CELEBRATION - A free barbecue with live bluegrass music will be hosted by SOFCU (“Your Community Credit Union”) at the Cave Junction Branch next week on Wednesday, May 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. The event, open to the public, is to celebrate the newly redesigned and expanded branch at the southeast corner of Redwood Hwy. and Lister Street, across from the county building. Branch Manager Vicki Gill and staffers “Lisa, Laree and Tansy” said that Taylor’s Sausage will dish up the barbecue featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage.

Besides the free food and music, attendees can register to win a new TV set. In addition, party-goers can visit the newly redecorated office. SOFCU membership is open to anyone in the community.

A drive-up teller for extended service hours has been added, plus an ATM allowing 24/7 access for deposits, withdrawals and inquiries. Inside the new office, SOFCU has added a Members’ Area offering access to the Internet and SOFCU’s home banking services. In addition, there is a “uniquely decorated play area for the little ones.”

MEMORY LAPSES? - For those worried about memory lapses and what they might mean, Friday, May 6 is set for a class, “Memory Difficulties: Should I Be Worried?” Sponsored by Oregon State University Extension of Josephine County, the class will be presented at Extension auditorium at 215 Ringuette St. in Grants Pass. To register, phone 476-6613.

WATER FARM - A program, “Hydroponics,” will be presented Thursday, May 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. by Jackson County Master Gardener Association in Central Point. Using hydroponics means faster maturation, no weeds, and fewer pests and diseases, said the association. For more info use extension.orst.edu/sorec/mg or phone 776-7371.

HELPING HOMELESS - On Tuesday, May 17, Illinois Valley homeless people will be treated to a free dinner and presentation about services available to them. The gathering is sponsored by Illinois Valley Family Coalition through efforts of persons including Maureen Goodrich, rural advocate. Persons with homes, who want to learn about services with an eye toward helping others, also can attend. Phone 592-6139 for more information.

BEVERAGE BELLY -- Rising soft drink consumption can be linked directly to the problem of obesity, especially among young people, notes the U.S. Dept. of Ag’s Economic Research Service. In addition, a decrease in the consumption of milk seems to be resulting in declining intakes of important nutrients such as calcium. USDA reported that each year, the “average American” drinks more than 50 gallons of soft drinks. Also noted is “a remarkable increase in the consumption of bottled water.”

NOTEPAD - Illinois River Valley Arts Council will meet Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at A Creative Space above Blue Moon Café. Anyone can attend ... **Kerby Water District** approval and an amended boundary description were among agenda items for the JoCo Board of Commissioners meeting in Grants Pass Wednesday morning, April 27 ... **June 7** is set for commencement featuring the Illinois Valley High School Class of 2005. This year’s program will begin at 7:30 p.m., a half-hour later than usual to avoid Sun glare ... **For Grants Pass** residents, today, April 27 marks the birthday of Ulysses S. Grant ... **Horizon Village** will host a dessert buffet Saturday, May 7 in honor of Mother’s Day (Sunday, May 8), including music by “High F’lutin’ Flute Band.” Phone (866) 454-0777 to RSVP and for directions ... **T-shirt:** Therapy is expensive. Popping bubble wrap is cheap. You choose ... **Another T:** Everything I say is substantiated by my own opinion ... **One more T:** Instant human. Just add coffee ... **Final T:** Here’s a little hint. I don’t care! ... **Absolutely final T:** Prodigee.

LAST WORDS - Don’t try to make children grow up to be like you, or they may do it. (Russell Baker)

IVFD to the Rescue

Tuesday, April 19 *7:38 a.m., public assist, 5000 block Holland Loop. *12:08 p.m., grass fire, 100 block Hummingbird Road. *7:29 p.m., motor vehicle accident, 30000 block Redwood Hwy.	*11:26 a.m., M.A. 600 block Sherwood Way. *1:16 p.m., M.A., 200 block Prottzman Way. *1:17 p.m. Districtwide medical standby (DiMS) for AMR. *4:39 p.m., open burn (legal), Waldo/Takilma roads.
Wednesday, April 20 *12:55 p.m., medical assist (M.A.) with American Medical Response (AMR), 300 block W. Lister Street.	Friday, April 22 *1:47 a.m., M.A., 500 block Schumacher Street. *1:48 a.m. DiMS.
Thursday, April 21	*8:14 a.m., DiMS.

Good night, and good luck. - Edward R. Murrow -

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Letters to the Editor -- The Public Forum

(Continued from page 2)

the decision-making bodies, to enact laws for our common good, to speak on the world stage for our nation.

We began with very good or at least acceptable leaders to bring us forward. These individuals then took on more power that we willingly gave them. They make choices for us all. We did this not realizing that the most destructive decision an individual can make is to give away his or her decision-making authority.

The problems started increasing as special interests began lobbying of these officials for enactment of laws that benefit only themselves and their corporate or religious (almost interchangeable) well being. This leaves the citizens powerless.

This has happened over many decades; the fix will not come easy. To start we must expect in a statement from all candidates (or at least one to start with) their refusal to accept any funding, trips, or parties paid for by any lobbying group. From the religious right to the liberal left all lobbying for profit must end. The people’s representatives must be just that.

Whose land is it?

**From Marvin D. Sprinkle
Cave Junction**

Environmentalists: A person who doesn’t believe the Earth is a trash can, and when coming out of the woods leaves nothing but tracks.

Environmentalists: Another type of homosapien that believes in making public lands off limits to everyone.

While hard-working citizens have been busy tending to the everyday business of earning a living, certain environmentalists have been busy lobbying legislators to designate more public land off limits and to create historical trails and Heritage Areas across the United States.

These special designations often include provisions to remove authority over the land from publicly elected officials and place that authority in the hands of an appointed committee. The bills they want passed state that management would be under the control of nonprofit corporations.

Environmentalists often dominate these committees. Many of these bills state that funds will be available to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, a state, including a political subdivision, an Indian tribe, a private organization, or any person; and authorize funds to hire and compensate staff. These are well-designed schemes.

Removing public land from public use, placing additional restrictions on private land and adding paid positions to oversee these designated areas will increase taxpayer burdens by millions every year.

Following are some of the collected bills that fall into this category. The complete text of each bill can be found online at thomas.loc.gov. I suggest some time to fire a letter to legislators and to the House Resources Committee. Our legislators can be located in the front section of a phone book or online. Letters to the House Resources Committee can be sent to: The Honorable Chairman Richard W. Pombo, House Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth

House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; or faxed to (202) 226-4631.

Comments should be constructive, or send a postcard that indicates support or not for these bills.

S. 206. Would designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail across Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, reaching to the Pacific Ocean; and nonfederal public lands may be acquired from a willing (?) seller. Sponsor: Maria Cantwell, of Washington.

And there are additional bills pending to create heritage area and corridors in Vermont, New York, Arizona, Missouri, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

S. 63. Would establish a Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area in New Mexico. Sponsor: Jeff Bingaman, New Mexico.

S. 74. Would designate a portion of the White Salmon River in Washington as a Wild and Scenic River. Sponsor: Cantwell, of Washington.

S. 152. Would enhance ecosystem protection in the Skyhomish River Valley in Washington state by designating federally controlled public lands as wilderness. Sponsor: Patty Murray of Washington.

More bills -- H.R. 312 Ohio, H.R. 694 South Carolina, H.R. 233 & 128 California, S. 156. New Mexico, S. 163. Utah, S. 200. Georgia, S. 204. Louisiana, S. 263: all federal land and more bills not listed here.

Do we as private citizens think we will have access to any of these public lands? Not too likely.

Maybe we should stop and ask ourselves about all these yellow gates going up across public land roads here in Illinois Valley that are controlled by BLM and the

U.S. Forest Service.

These are not their lands, you know. They’re ours, and we’re being denied access. And remember the gents who were from Washington recently cited for just camping on one of these roads that was poorly designated?

People should wake up. The so-called Enviros are out to plow us under.

True terrorists?

**From Richard Strohl
Cave Junction**

We as a nation rally behind “God Bless America,” while on a daily basis we are warned about terrorist striking America with a dirty bomb and the possible devastation.

In accordance with a 1996 U.N. resolution, depleted uranium (DU) is a weapon of “mass destruction” and is illegal. Yet the U.S. military currently uses DU in virtually all its weapons. These warheads are essentially dirty bombs that create serious illness and birth defects.

During the first Gulf War the United States suffered 760 casualties of killed or wounded soldiers, yet as of May 2002 the Veterans Administration has classified 262,586 of these veterans as disabled for a 30.8 casualty rate including 10,617 dead. DU munitions radiation exposure is by far the most significant factor to these casualties.

During the first Iraq invasion, the Pentagon admits that we left a bare minimum of 320 metric tons of DU on the battlefield. During the current invasion this amount is likely 100-fold plus. The evidence of cancer and birth deformities in Iraq is overwhelming.

Our elected politicians of both parties are doing all of this in the name of U.S.

citizens.

It is common knowledge that we invaded Iraq because they possessed WMDs, yet none were found. The reality is that the good ol’ USA has left behind tens of thousands of tons of DU which is legally classified as a WMD, and is seriously maiming all occupants of those countries, including women and children; and devastating our own military personnel.

Who are the true terrorist? Could it be the good ol’ self-righteous USA?

‘Wood It Matter’

**From William Schneider
Cave Junction**

The following poem was inspired by Fred Krauss’ “Touch the World” in Letters to the Editor on April 13. It’s not to antagonize, but to show a different point of view to the one well-taken by Fred:

Every time a tree gets cut/No more water does it give./No more shade for living things/Under which that tree they lived.

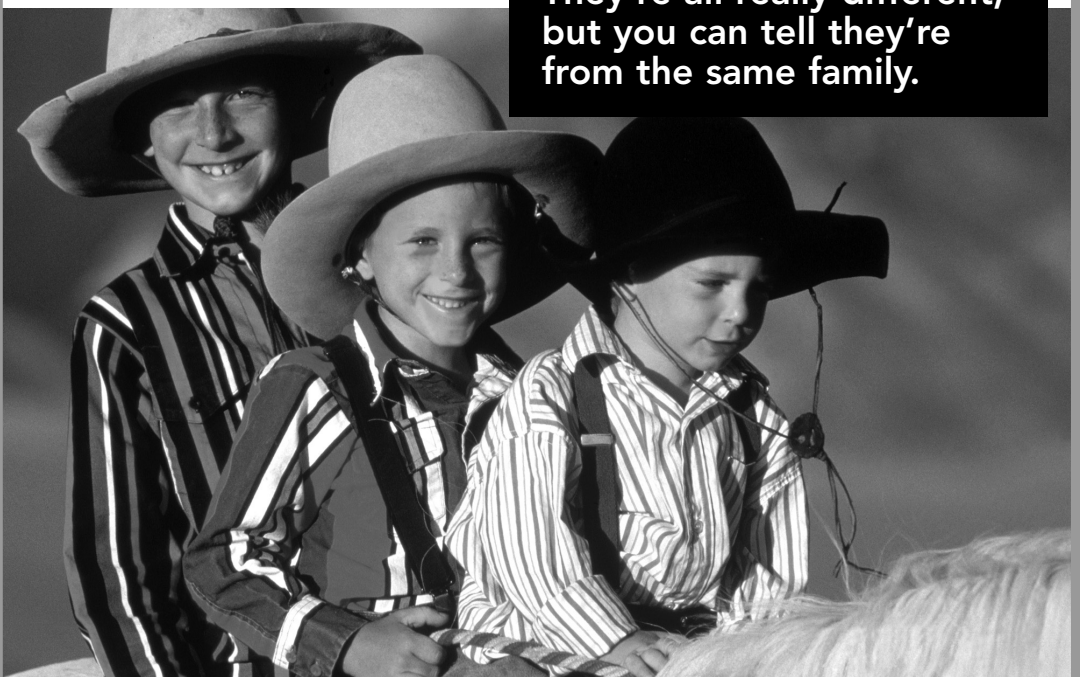
Or in that tree a nesting bird/A home no longer there./All those homes destroyed so quick/As if no one ever cared.

Every time a tree gets cut/A change takes place it’s true./No matter what the reasons for./We account for what we do.

Perhaps it’s wise when making changes/So many every day./To have a clue as to end results/And to what we’ll have to pay.

Every time a tree gets cut/There’s less life upon the land./Life not given for no reason./Not made by human hand.

Respect is due for that which is/Before we come along./Every time a tree gets cut/What was before, is gone.



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