

## Bob's Corner

Our house, two dogs and three cats pretty much have returned to "normal," whatever that means, subsequent to our daughter, Vicki, and two grandchildren, Natalie and Ella, returning to San Diego County after devoting two weeks to a visit with my wife, "Nonna," and me, "Pop-Pop."

It was a terrific and timely visit, as we cannot at this time take the time, or even leave the time, to travel to Carlsbad. Ella Valentina, named after Nonna's mom (Louella), and mine (Valentina) was born approximately 12 weeks ago.

We were "dying," as the weird expression goes, to see her, as well as Vicki, Natalie (who'll be 3 this month), and Vicki's husband, Matt. He couldn't take more time from work, as he used his maternity leave immediately after Ella's birth.

Fortunately, our son, Mike, who moved here recently from Washington state, was able to fly to San Diego and return with our daughter and the two girls. Otherwise, it would have been a mighty tough time for her, packing two kids and all the paraphernalia that's needed. Then he was sweet enough to fly back with them, again to help with all the stuff. On the return trip he also took our other granddaughter, Kimberly, 9, and they stayed in Carlsbad five days. So Kimberly got to visit the San Diego Zoo and LegoLand.

Our two big cats stayed hidden during most of the visit here. "Flint Eastwood," our newest addition, was unable to hide, as Natalie carried him around most of the time. She claimed that he wanted her to do that, and no one argued. What's the use, arguing with a 2-year-old, anyway?

Our doggies, "Bingo" and "Rocky," received much attention from our two oldest visitors, especially the one that's turning 3. The young one seemed mildly interested in them, but other distractions, such as eating and getting new diapers, took precedence.

Our visitors saw some of the "local sights" in and around Illinois Valley, and enjoyed their stay, as did we. It was interesting, in an odd sort of way, to again experience having small children underfoot and about. However, being grandparents is totally different than being parents. (You know who you are folks, and that this is truth.)

Also, the care and feeding of small people presents new perspectives. Especially when your kids have been out of the house for oh, maybe 18 or so years. Something like that.

We are back to "normal," but it was so much fun being a little abnormal that we can hardly wait until the next visit. It'll just take time.

## Letters to the Editor

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

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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.  
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### 'Good old days'

From Laura Helms Selma

It's nice to see log trucks on the roads again.

Reminds me of the good old days when a man could support his family, and his children had a future around here in the valley.

If the environmentalists shut us down, don't worry -- there's always welfare. It's the nicest building in town, and business is booming.

### 'Local terrorists'

From Mara Carnes Cave Junction

In response to Peggy Norman's letter ("Illinois Valley News," July 27), I feel compelled to respond.

It's obvious to me that she missed the point entirely, so I decided to assist her in understanding Jennifer Berubee's letter ("Illinois Valley News," July 13).

"Jen" was using the truck-burning as an example of yet another crime in Cave Junction to go along with the others recently: the swimming pool break-ins, the vandal rampage against many local businesses, the Ollis Road thefts, the disappearance of Domingo Company-Ramirez, and many other unmentionables.

This town is small enough that most of us know each other; gossip spreads like wildfire. Yet nobody ever reports information they might have heard or seen about these local terrorists.

I find it hard to believe, as well, that nobody can come forward and report the animals involved so that we can keep our streets safe.

Every week I read about a woman in a car missing the driver door, accused of exposing herself to children. While I don't know this person, I've seen her. I bet that someone in this town knows who she is. Why don't they tell her to stop acting like a heathen and get some help?

There's a small red car here in town missing a windshield that I watched almost nail some kids in a crosswalk. There were four young men in this car -- and not one of them could tell the driver to stop acting like a jerk?

Instead of misdirecting anger at someone like "Jen," who loves this town and only wants to protect it, people should direct their anger toward getting this town cleaned up.

There are hundreds of homes being built. If we cannot protect the people who already live in the valley, how can we expect to protect the hundreds more coming?

Businesses won't open here and offer jobs if they keep getting ripped off. We need to take our streets back from the troubled youth, meth freaks, and other moral-lacking people.

### 'Give America back'

From Richard Strohl Cave Junction

The problems in America are significant and need immediate attention from politicians at all levels.

Failure to act will have a devastating effect on the

American standard of living for many decades or forever.

Some of the immediate problems are lopsided American trade agreements, loss of American jobs to Third World countries, unfunded corporate pensions, massive federal deficits, secretive government, political lies and hidden agendas, health care, corporate welfare, and inadequate corporate oversight, unfunded federal mandates.

Also, an out-of-control military industrial complex, political trashing of Social Security, World Bank control over Third World countries, pre-emptive war and corporate greed.

Our Founding Fathers and Constitution guarantee the right to vote for all citizens. The right is given to people and not corporations. Yet, American corporations control American politicians as never before with massive contributions to all, and constant pressure from corporate lobbyists.

The favorite second career for retired politicians is to become political lobbyists. Politicians' concern for individual rights is only a drop in the ocean of concern for corporate favors.

It is common knowledge that most wars engaged in by American forces are to preserve the integrity and desires of American corporations, not the rights, concerns, and wishes of the masses. The political tradition is not left, right, Republican or Democrat.

It is mass deception by most politicians favoring corporations over individual rights.

All Americans concerned about their children's future should demand that American politics change now. Corporations should be forbidden to contribute to or lobby politicians. Only those who are legally allowed to vote should be allowed to contribute or lobby politicians -- corporations are not allowed to vote, they should not be allowed the same rights allowed voters.

Give America back to the voters and stop corporate greed because the consequences are loss of individual liberties: The choice is ours.

### Walden vs. Meth

From Angela Wilhelms, press secretary for Congressman Greg Walden Washington, D.C.

Congressman Walden wanted me to share some information about two key amendments he voted for to further enhance the continuing fight against methamphetamine, especially our international efforts.

By not only fighting meth in our local communities, but addressing the issue abroad as well, we reduce the threat posed on our own soil by this toxic poison.

The amendments offered by Greg's colleague from Oregon's Fifth District, Rep. Darlene Hooley, and other members of the Con-

gressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, passed with overwhelming bipartisan support as part of the Foreign Relations Authorization.

The first amendment mandates that the five nations which export, and the five which import the largest amounts of pseudoephedrine (a key ingredient in meth) fully cooperate with U.S. law enforcement to prevent its misuse and diversion into meth labs worldwide.

If these countries fail to cooperate in these efforts, their eligibility for aid from the United States under the Foreign Assistance Act would be diminished. These consequences would put meth on the same footing as "natural drugs" such as heroine and cocaine, which are already regulated in the same way.

The second amendment addresses the smuggling of meth from Mexico. "Superlabs" throughout Mexico produce more than half our country's meth supply, and smuggle the poison into America, where it infiltrates our communities, especially in the West.

The amendment calls for the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to take actions to improve bilateral efforts along the border to prevent smuggling of meth from Mexico.

The amendment specifically directs INL to help Mexican officials enhance their ability to combat smuggling through equipment, training and technical assistance, and encourages the Mexican government to take immediate action to reduce the diversion of pseudoephedrine from legitimate destinations into the hands of drug traffickers and superlabs.

As you recall, Greg joined with colleagues on both sides of the aisle a few weeks ago to vote for increased funding levels for critical programs that help the fight against meth through programs at the local and community level.

He firmly believes that the only way to truly succeed in this effort is to ensure a multiprolonged approach-one that combines the determination and front-line efforts by our talented local officials with national and international efforts led by the federal government.

This continuing effort is one to which Greg and other members of the meth caucus will remain committed.

### Corrections to letter, 'How to stop theft' From S.D. Freeman Cave Junction

(Editor's Note: Some material in a letter in the July 20 issue inadvertently was omitted. Following are the paragraphs with the omitted portions included.)

"This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance hereof ... shall be the supreme Law of the Land and judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding." (U.S. Constitution, Article VI, paragraph 2.)

Further, paragraph 3 of Article VI requires all "Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and Judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation to support this Constitution."

The above information is enough to make you realize that the government is stealing from you.

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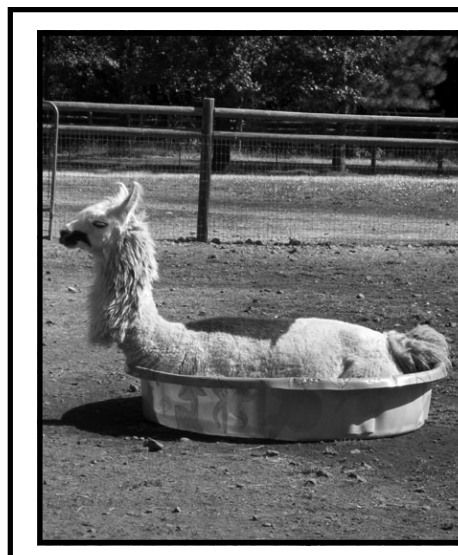
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