

## Bob's Corner

It's a horrid choking and hacking sound, coming as it does in the wee hours (no pun intended) after midnight. It's a sound that causes sleepy people to arise frantically with their eyes popping and hearts pounding. "Where is it?" asks one spouse. "At the foot of the bed!" responds the fellow spouse. "Get it off the bed!" shouts the first spouse.

But sometimes it's too late. Alas. And a magnificent, amazing and totally startling mass -- some call them hairballs -- is deposited, usually on a spanking clean bedspread. Such is life for those who live with cats.

If you're "lucky," you get the gasping critter onto the floor, where it strategically places its meteor-like hairball on the carpet. Or perhaps on a piece of clothing that has found its way to the floor. If you're really unlucky, the internal projectile misses a basket full of clean laundry. It's something to pray for.

Residential felines are strange little creatures, resembling Big Cat Predators, and acting that way too. Being nocturnal, they sleep a lot while we stupid humans are awake. It's estimated that cats sleep approximately 80 percent of their time. This is, I feel, so that during the other 20 percent, they can work to keep us awake by demanding that we pet them. Or they leap into bed, landing on uncomfortable places, and rub themselves on their human being servants.

It's sort of fun watching them play, but it seems as though sometimes the play is pretty close to biting the jugular or ripping out the guts of the other kitty. Our new arrival, "Flint," is growing, now weighing more than 3 pounds, and he takes on 16-pound "Bubba" with aplomb. Occasionally he pays for it, which I can tell by the kitten squeaks.

But "Bubba" also has taken on the task of grooming the little black guy, although at times I think it must hurt because of the baby snarls from "Flint." Meanwhile, the cat that should be doing the grooming, "Bubba's" mom, "Maui," hisses and growls at "Flinty," so he's somewhat intimidated. Not a lot, but some. He's a feisty little guy.

So far, no hairballs from him. But his two companions make up for it. And he's probably in training.

Hairball hacking is better than any alarm clock I've ever used. Plus, you don't have to clean up after an alarm clock.

## 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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**Peter Maluk 'dedicated'**  
**From Lorna Byrne Middle School staff**  
**Cave Junction**

Peter Maluk has dedicated the past 10 years of service to Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS) and Illinois Valley at-large.

He has agreed to a change by accepting a position as principal of Fruitdale Elementary School in Grants Pass. His agreeability and acceptance of this new change and challenge in his life shows his trust and faith in the school, staff and community to continue a vision of progressive growth in the betterment of our community.

It is with great regret that we let him go to continue to use his leadership strengths to guide, direct and facilitate a school and community with greater need.

The staff at Lorna Byrne have not let go easily, and have a desire to show "Mr. Maluk" how much our school and this valley have valued and appreciated the 10 years of dedication and direction he has provided to students, staff and families.

If families or individuals want to express their thanks, thoughts of appreciation or wishes of goodwill and farewell; letters, cards or notes of gratitude can be addressed to our longtime principal and sent to LBMS, Junction Avenue, Cave Junction. They will be given him prior to the beginning of the new school year and the beginnings of his new adventure with Fruitdale Elementary.

The LBMS staff would like to show "Mr. Maluk" just how much our valley has appreciated his efforts.

**Bluegrass treat**  
**From Joe Ross**  
**Roseburg**

It was a treat to experience some of Oregon's best Bluegrass music at the Siskiyou Bluegrass Festival at Lake Selmac on July 30.

All the performers were well-rehearsed, entertaining and professional. I was amazed by the wealth of great talent in Southern Oregon, and one group even traveled all the way from Bend to perform.

What a beautiful location for such an event. The crowd, numbering in the hundreds, was very appreciative, involved and responsive. At only \$10 for adults, the price was a real bargain for 12 hours of captivating entertaining music at lakeside. The joyous Bluegrass sounds on banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and bass got everyone's toes tapping.

My hat is off to the businesses and volunteers who worked hard to host such a well-organized, down-home event. A benefit for the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Bluegrass festival's success will allow the chamber to sponsor other events, support local business, and promote tourism.

Every regional chamber should be as visionary and so inclined to partner with the Bluegrass music community to present a day (or better yet, a full weekend) of family oriented entertainment that emphasizes pickin' and grinnin'.

**'Beautiful Earth'**  
**From JoAnne Stone**  
**Cave Junction**

I was poisoned by surprise at a roadside vegetable stand last week. As I approached the register to pay for my produce, a man was spraying for bugs underneath a produce table.

Those of us concerned about the quality of our air, food and water, should take the time to think: What are we doing to ourselves and our

beautiful Earth?

**Ruinaton view**  
**From Shannon Wilson**  
**Eugene**

Being a former Selma resident, I recently spent a few days in the valley and the following were the blaring wrong-headed practices perpetrated by a few who seem intent to ruin Illinois Valley for subsequent generations.

Allowing a bunch of California developers to slap up 400-plus crackerjack tract homes on a flood plain in Cave Junction. These 400 new residences will place a huge strain on the river, as well as kill off diminishing salmon runs. Every I.V. resident, not the developers, will pay in the end.

Dumping thousands of gallons of water every day onto hay fields on 100-degree days at the expense of a dying river and dying salmon runs.

To allow BLM and the county to continue to remove the biggest and most fire-resistant trees surrounding residential areas, thus creating a great tinderbox in the valley to burn every home when a fire does sweep through.

Allowing the Siskiyou National Forest and federal jack-booted thugs to degrade the beauty of the Siskiyou, and shutting down the most-visited part of the river, Eight Dollar Mt. Road, during the height of the tourism season, knowing well that tourism is the greatest contributor to the local economy.

There will come a day when auto fuel is \$5 per gallon or more where clean water, viable salmon runs, population, and local food production will determine whether a community survives or not.

**9/11 theory**  
**From Kristine Strohl**  
**Cave Junction**

Someone at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. must have recognized the importance and credibility in Dr. David Ray Griffin's presentation concerning the Bush administration's participation in the 9/11 attacks and their deliberate manipulation of the facts in the 9/11 Report.

In his presentation to the National Press Club on June 22, Griffin explains the Bush administration's involvement in the 9/11 attacks and how they manipulated the testimonies given to the commission and their findings.

Griffin points out: "The Commission's investigative work, however, was carried out by its staff, and this staff was directed by the White House's main inside the Commission, Philip Zelikow, a fact that the mainstream press has not emphasized."

Griffin concludes: "What we need now is press that will let the American people in on this development -- which is most important, given the fact that the official story about 9/11 has provided the pretext for virtually every other horrible thing this administration has done."

Treason, murder and lying to Congress are not easily received by anyone against anyone, especially our national leaders. But aren't we obligated by more than 112 inconsistencies and our morals to scrutinize 9/11 with as much intensity as Nixon and Clinton were scrutinized?

Painfully, as it might be, we have to investigate this momentous event with clear and open minds and hold our

leaders accountable, or be slaves to their ploys. To accept a cover-up, and ignore the truth, would be as destructive to our country as any bomb.

**South Deer EA**  
**From Dorothea**  
**Hover-Kramer**  
**Cave Junction**

Here's what the public might not know about the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the South Deer Landscape Management Project (OR 110-05-10).

Although the public comment period regarding the document ended Aug. 8, BLM official Abbie Jossie is willing to consider public input until the Record of Decision is issued in the next weeks.

The EA is a 133-page document that is well written, but clouds many of the facts of which we the public should be aware concerning the planned "treatment" of our highly visible public forest land consisting of nearly 7,500 acres in the Deer Creek area.

Although several alternatives are proposed, including the sensible #4, the Natural Selection Alternative (NSA), prescriptions for treatment of the forestland so far focuses on #2, which is basically to cut and burn or both.

"Cutting" is mitigated by promises of "structural retention," which essentially means that 16 to 25 trees (less in some areas) will be left standing while everything else is clear-cut. We need to imagine what one acre of land looks like with 16 trees on it.

"Burning for fire fuel reduction" means that everything but 8-inch-diameter pines and 13-inch hardwoods will be destroyed in certain areas and burned every five to 10 years in perpetuity. Imagine the smoke and air pollution of last winter as a continuing scene. Also, such fires hasten the distribution of trees attacking fungi and beetles.

"Replanting" can happen immediately or within two to three years depending on funding, and it will take approximately 20 to 30 years to cover denuded hillsides to have tree cover. It will take decades more for soil and wildlife to recover.

The beloved Thompson Creek Overlook Trail will be obliterated by the plan, and overall, the scenery and beauty that attracts us as residents and tourists will be severely degraded.

Comments can be sent to Abbie Jossie at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford OR 97504.

**Manage resources**  
**From Stephanie Friedman**  
**Cave Junction**

It is interesting to hear from people in our community that seeing logging trucks carrying one or two old-growth trees makes them feel like there are jobs for people in the community.

Are the few jobs being created even going to local people? There are other ways in which sustainable forest jobs could be created for many more valley residents, such as logging smaller-diameter timber, and thinning, which would help lower fire hazards.

Currently, our old-growth forests on public land are being logged for the benefit of a few people and corporations without regard to the long-term effects on these unique natural areas.

The American people, to whom these forests supposedly belong, are being short-changed without necessarily being aware of the severe and complex ecological damage to public watershed areas.

Throughout history, civilizations have declined due to desertification. Guarding and protecting our water resources should be one of our greatest priorities, especially as an educated society with the advantage of learning from past societies that have failed to do so.

The damage that is being done to our pristine watershed areas in the name of free enterprise will have lasting consequences, not only for the natural areas, but for the people who live in our communities. Logging in these sensitive areas is interrupting the natural cycle of post-fire regeneration that I have seen with my own eyes.

One of the companies logging these areas is Silver Creek Timber. It has been fined (by the U.S. Forest Service) for violating terms of the Bald Bear Sale contract of cutting undesignated timber. I feel that the forest service needs to review and change its policies in regard to listening to the concerns made by the people of this county during the public comments periods for timber sales.

It seems that these comments, which have largely been opposed to these timber sales in old-growth, and now

(Continued on page 5)

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