

Bob's Corner

Recently rewatched the movie, "The Terminal," with Tom Hanks. Actually, I didn't watch it with *him*; I watched it with Jan, but Hanks was the principal character. And the story reminded me of a few years ago when Jan and I, flying standby, became somewhat stranded in Los Angeles. Or if you prefer, at LAX.

At the time, Alaska Airlines was stopping in L.A. on its flights between Portland (or PDX) and San Diego (SAN). Now it flies direct without stopping in the City of Angels, although you can take other Alaska flights should you desire to go there.

We were returning to Cave Junction from a visit with family in San Diego, and felt good about getting seats. Then we landed in Los Angeles, and after a short time, there was an announcement: "Passengers Rodriguez please come to the front of the plane." Gulp. We arose, reluctantly, knowing only too well what we'd hear. Yep. "Sorry, but you've been bumped."

So off we toddled into the terminal with our carry-on baggage. This was like 8 or 9 on a Sunday morning. Therefore we were not overly concerned about catching a later flight to Portland and still making it home by Sunday night. Ha-ha. Flight after flight left for Portland. Without us. During one long gap, we wandered to the international terminal, and discovered that the food available there is much better than elsewhere at LAX. I mean, there were guys wearing chef clothing and carving meat, and wow, it was good.

Later, I tried napping across four plastic chairs, but it was a losing proposition. By now it was like 7 or 8 p.m., and there were no more Portland flights. "I'm not staying the night in Los Angeles," said Jan. Quite firmly. So she convinced an agent that there was a flight with seats for us. It was going to Boise (BOI). That's in Idaho, you know. And we got aboard.

We reached Boise finally; collapsed into a motel room, and requested an early wake-up call so we could get out on the first flight to Portland. And there were seats available. Off we went to Portland. Off we returned to Boise because of dense fog. A concerned agent hurried us from the aborted flight to another craft. And off we went. To Seattle. Or SEA if you prefer.

Hung around the Seattle airport until late afternoon until we could get seats on a Portland-bound plane. Finally arriving in the Rose City, we hurried for a flight to Medford (MFR) via Horizon Air. Made it back to Cave Junction (or CJ if you prefer) only a day later than planned. The hazards of flying standby.

But I'm not complaining. We are blessed to be able to visit family, and look for shirts in Arizona, courtesy of our son, Mike, who took early retirement from Alaska Airlines, allowing us to fly on standby basis. And I know that airport terminals are a necessary part of traveling by air. But those plastic chairs are murder on my back. Or YOW if you prefer.

I.V. Chamber Mixer hosted by Federal Paralegal

137 S. Redwood Hwy. (behind IVCDO)
Friday, February 17, 5 to 7 p.m.

Come mingle & meet!



Refreshments provided by the following chamber members:
Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co., Taylor's Country Store, River Valley Restaurant, Junction Inn, Dairy Queen, Bagel Junction, Art's Red Garter, Golden Dragon Gate Restaurant, Carlos' Mexican Restaurante.

Illinois Valley News

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DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters
5 P.M. THURSDAY

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Friday with an additional charge.)

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One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$36

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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.

'Thank you' submissions are not accepted as letters.

Looking forward to 25th annual Blackberry Fest From 'Bear' Marston Cave Junction

I understand that the folks who have been running the Blackberry Festival have decided to back out.

OK! I have also heard that there is a group of people that want to assume running the festival, and elect a new Blackberry Board.

I believe that the forthcoming Blackberry Festival will be the 25th year anniversary. Wow. Twenty-five years. I'll let that some thought it wouldn't last.

I'm sure that the Blackberry Festival this year will be a memorable one.

Meeting of 'berry good' festival directors set From Mark Russo Cave Junction

Pursuant to ORS Chapter 65, members of the Illinois Valley Wild Blackberry Arts & Crafts Festival will meet Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction to elect new directors for the 2006 festival season.

The 25th annual Wild Blackberry Festival is slated for the second weekend of August. It is a fun, carnival-like event for people of all ages that brings crafters, vendors and entertainers together to display their wares and talents while stimulating the local economy and promoting tourism.

Four candidates have already expressed an interest in taking on this important event and will hold an informal mixer over coffee and doughnuts at 7 p.m. prior to the main meeting. All past and current members, as well as interested citizens, are encouraged to attend.

Necessity seen for another Raffenburg From Tony Corria

Club News

Illinois River Valley Arts Council

The public can attend the fourth annual Woolly Winter Gala "with entertainment, good food, a great art raffle and lots of fun activities for the kids" Sunday, Feb. 12 from 1 to 5 p.m.

All proceeds from the event at Lorna Byrne Middle School go toward community programs, such as the Learning Through Art projects with youth.

Marine Corps League

The Rogue Valley Detachment of the Marine Corps League will hold its Friday, Feb. 10 meeting at JJ North's, 1017 N. Riverside Ave. in Medford, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Guest speaker, Maj. Vern Caldwell, USMC (ret.), will outline "Character-Based Leadership Techniques" taught to Young Marines in Rogue Valley.

Marines, former Marines, corpsmen and their families can attend the dinner meeting. For more information phone Tony Guillory at 471-1944.

Grants Pass

During the recent strikes by county employees, the unionized county workers had their rally on the street by the courthouse, screaming, using a bull-horn for four days and often disrupting traffic.

Commissioners Riddle and Ellis broke down and retreated from any serious attempt to control costs. The strikers prevailed, with Ellis and Riddle agreeing, and Commissioner Jim Raffenburg opposing, to keep what they had agreed on a secret from the taxpayers.

You can be sure of one thing: Riddle and Ellis are going to ask the taxpayers to increase their property taxes. Raffenburg is in opposition to the agreement. In fact, the implications are that nothing has changed.

County spending continues unchecked. Riddle and Ellis believe the taxpayers should pay more taxes. In four months we will have an election. Let's hope that we as taxpayers can find another Raffenburg so we can turn around this insane situation.

It's very apparent that we, as taxpayers need to wake up or we will be squeezed to a point not seen since the founding of this Republic. It's time to say enough is enough.

Pregnancy Center offers 'season for love' help From Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley Cave Junction

Most everyone associates February with Valentine's Day, the day that we celebrate romantic love, and love for our families.

For many, it's a day of flowers, celebrations, and being thankful for what the Lord has given.

For some though, it can be a lonely day. For the separated, divorced or widowed it can be very difficult. In these instances, it may help to remember that there are seasons in life, and that God is always beside them. One of the most difficult situations to face on Valentine's Day is the loss of a child through abortion.

Maybe the abortion happened before the person became a Christian, or before they married and had a

committed and stable home.

Whatever the situation, God is waiting to heal them from the pains of the past. They don't have to face this alone. In fact, their attempts to drown out the pain have made the situation worse.

Instead of arising each day and seeing a hollow shell of themselves in the mirror, they can awake with anticipation about what the day will bring.

Instead of going through the motions of life, they can have joy and peace again. Instead of having problems sleeping, they can get the rest they so badly need.

Statistics say that one out of every four women has had (or will have) an abortion by age 45. That is a lot of hurting women out there, and many more hurting men.

Those who are post-abortive and want the pain to stop can obtain help through the Pregnancy Center. Through a class, "Your Choice to Heal," women can finally find peace and begin living their lives again.

They no longer have to suffer with nightmares, depression, anger, crying, feelings of hopelessness, or even thoughts of suicide. This is not the way that God wishes to see them living the rest of their lives.

Isn't it time to put away the winter thoughts and begin enjoying spring?

Phone 592-6058, or use PregnancyCenter@cavenet.com

'Panacea' found for drooping O&C funds From Sandy Raymond Cave Junction

During an approximately 30-minute meeting with Josephine County commissioners, county health department, animal control, "dog fanciers" and members of the Rogue Valley Kennel Club (RVKC), it became abundantly clear that our elected "Bureaucratic Representatives" are faced with more than just an economic dilemma.

Fanciers and RVKC members were welcomed with a brief history regarding the dwindling O&C funds and the need for the various county departments to become self-sufficient. Each had been required to submit its own set of objectives in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency, and as an example a 33 percent increase in the fees charged by county parks was offered.

There was, however, nothing mentioned regarding the reduction in county parks usage by Josephine County residents due to the increased fees.

More to point of this letter is the proposal by ani-

(Continued on Page 3)



You're Invited!
Join us for our
Annual
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 16, 2006
Registration starts at 7 p.m.
Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Josephine County Building

HELP WANTED !!!!

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. You must be a member by Feb. 16 to vote in the General Membership Meeting.
541-592-4440
139 S. Redwood Hwy.
Cave Junction, OR 97523

IV Community Development Organization



Fire Mountain Gems and Beads Now Hiring

Fire Mountain Gems and Beads is actively recruiting for full and part time high-energy individuals to join our growing team. Fire Mountain is a leading direct marketing company in the jewelry industry and has been satisfying customers with excellent products and customer service for over 30 years. We successfully market our products through our extensive catalogs and website to a broad customer base of creative jewelry makers, jewelry stores, and crafters.

Please visit our website at www.firemountaingems.com for a full description of the following openings and to print out an application. Positions currently available include-

- Production Improvement Specialist
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- Assistant Manager, Distribution Center
- Accounts Receivable Specialist

We offer competitive wages and a generous benefits package including medical, dental, and life insurance, employer match 401k plan, Paid Time Off, and more. To apply please email your resume to: resumes@firemtn.com or drop by our offices between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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