

Bob's Corner

OK, here's another column about those stupid cats of ours. I know, it's not the cats who are dumb; it's their silly owners, who can't seem to adapt properly to the Frivolous Fantastic Four Felines who eat a lot, sleep even more; climb on our shelves, furniture and counter-tops; stick their cute little noses into anything we're trying to cook or work on; and generally rule the roost.

Oh, and as noted last week, they're still having contests to see who can contribute the most to the litter box.

We recently cleaned our carpet, which meant that the quartet of quadrupeds had to be sidetracked, at least temporarily. I hit upon the amazing idea of placing them together into one room: the "master" bathroom. Fine idea. Not so fine in the implementation thereof.

But I managed to corral all four and get them into the bathroom, although it was an especially tough battle to capture the elusive mama cat "Maui." It also was a lot of fun putting them in the room while the others already there were trying to escape. But I did it and survived.

The cats were not happy. I could tell by the piteous sounds they made. You would have thought that they were being tortured by mad dogs. I couldn't figure out why they were so dismayed. After all, I put their hippopotamus-size litter box in the shower stall, and brought in their food and water. What more could they want?

They wanted out.

After some time of cats flinging themselves against the door, and trying to scratch their way through the underside, it became quiet. Too quiet. But the carpet was getting cleaned.

Once that job was finished, it was time to let the little darlin's out of their temporary prison. Guess what I discovered? Give up? Let's call it The Revenge of the Cats. The bathroom was A Mess. There was litter all over the floor, the bottom of the shower stall, and the countertop. Some of it was even dry. And some was even unused.

They had opened a large drawer, in which we keep rolls of toilet tissue, and attacked the rolls. Some were only slightly shredded. Plus, all of them had bits of wet litter on them. And three of them had climbed over the rear of the drawer and were hanging out inside the space between the drawer and the wall. You know, it's where you'll find lots of that dusty, kinda' nasty debris.

And they had knocked my two railroad lanterns off the window ledge, plus a clock. Onto the floor. The lanterns are mostly OK except that one has cracked glass now. Was I angry? No, not really. It's was just something that cats do when they're bored. And angry.

But the carpet turned out OK.

MANSFIELD R. CLEARY



Attorney at Law

General Practice in

Illinois Valley

since 1980

Practice includes but not limited to:

Bankruptcy - Eliminate financial problems

Living trusts - Avoid probate

Estate planning - Wills, power of attorney

Domestic relations

Auto accident - Personal Injury

Criminal - DUII

Real Estate contracts - Foreclosure

592-2195 200 W. Lister

To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else.
- Emily Dickinson -

Illinois Valley News

An Independent Weekly Newspaper Co-owned and published by Robert R. (Bob) and Jan Rodriguez - Bob Rodriguez, Editor El Jefe

Entered as second class matter June 11, 1937 at Post Office as Official Newspaper for Josephine County and Josephine County Three Rivers School District, published at 321 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523

Periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523

Post Office Box 1370 USPS 258-820

Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330

Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net or newsdesk@illinois-valley-news.com

Volume 68, No. 49

Staff: Michelle Binker, Becky Loudon, Bryan Harley, Tabitha Jackson, Zina Booth.

Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

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.)

POLICY ON LETTERS: 'Illinois Valley News' welcomes letters to the editor provided they are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. Generally, one letter per person per month at publishers' discretion. Letters are used at the discretion of the publishers. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be levied if a letter is inordinately long in the publishers' opinion.

POLICY ON "HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE," DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADS & NOTICES: All submissions must be hand delivered, faxed or e-mailed to us for publication. Submissions must be resubmitted weekly if the item is to run more than one week.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year in Josephine County - \$20.80

One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$24.40

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction, OR 97523

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.

Oil company profits called obscene
From Lewis M. Lyons
Cave Junction

It has been obvious for decades that U.S. oil dollars have financed Arab terrorism.

Our government has done little to alleviate this situation. Want to know a reason why?

A huge windfall of the public's dollars is realized by the government's tax-collecting agencies as the price of petroleum products soar. Because the high taxes on petroleum products, federal and local, are based on percentages of the total charge, the increase in the bottom line is obscene.

Exxon-Mobil reported a 2005 profit of \$36 billion; \$16 billion in the fourth quarter. I don't know the tax percentage on a gallon of gas, but it would total billions of dollars.

You don't kill the goose that lays that kind of golden egg.

Who has the largest burden?
From Joe Hoelzle
Cave Junction

I tend to not react publicly to world affairs, but in the last month there were two especially disturbing developments I believe should be written about.

First, we had an increase in postal rates. I initially thought it was probably due to increased gas prices, but the postmaster was happy to enlighten me that the increase was a mandate by the federal government to be spent as it wishes. The Postal Service receives none of the increased revenue.

The government tells us that it is lowering our taxes and then increases our costs another way that is more underhanded. So, the rich get the majority of the tax breaks, and the middle- and lower-income population pays a higher percentage of their income in a hidden tax.

The second development was Exxon reporting another record profit for the second quarter in a row. They tell us that the price increase in fuel is due to the higher price of crude oil and loss of refineries due to "Katrina."

So I thought, what if my supplies suddenly skyrocketed in price; and on top of that my place of business burned down, how could I possibly make a marked increase in profit?

It definitely makes me question what caused such a huge increase in fuel prices. It also makes me wonder how much stock President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and the rest of the politicians own in Exxon and the other oil companies. If my memory serves me right, while Clinton was president we had a smaller increase in fuel prices than now, and the Republican-controlled Congress and the people demanded action.

Clinton released the federal oil reserves and prices stabilized. Where are the indignant voices this time? Are they not being broadcast by our controlled

media, or are they content with their profits?

These are two cases of increased basic costs which affect all Americans. But if you compare the percent of income affected of an upper-income family and the percent affected of a lower-income family, who takes the largest burden?

Walden plan seen good in Safety Net situation
From Jim Feldkamp
Adjunct professor at Umpqua Community College,
and Republican candidate,
4th congressional district

Like most Oregonians, I was concerned with President Bush's budget proposal for fiscal year 2007.

In it was the reduction of the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination" (the Safety Net). My concern is the realization that the Clinton Northwest Forest plan had finally run its course.

The Clinton plan was designed to assuage the concerns of business and environmental groups about harvesting our counties' most renewable resource -- timber. In this plan the counties that would have realized additional money, from taxes acquired by logging

timber, would be subsidized by the federal government to equal the money that would have been recovered from taxes acquired by harvesting timber.

Unfortunately, the plan was flawed. The Safety Net only provides what are expected to be receipts from timber harvested -- not additional taxes created by new jobs and "spin-off" companies that would normally be associated with a vibrant economy.

Daniel Boone stated, "A government big enough to give us everything we want is big enough to take away everything we need." It is once again proving true.

The federal payments in lieu of jobs/work are being reduced due to the financial crises and the desire to reduce our deficit. Now counties throughout our state suffer from budgetary shortfalls due to the restriction placed on our timber and resource-based industries. This comes at a particularly bad time -- counties in the 4th Congressional District have some of the highest unemployment in the nation.

Those of us in Josephine County know that

these payments are vital to our local economy, and we know that all public officials are working hard to ensure that this Safety Net gets renewed by the federal government.

And it must occur. Because without these receipts our public safety, roads and educational systems will take a direct hit.

But that brings us back to why we needed this in the first place? The Clinton plan was designed to address the concerns of all. Yet in the proceeding 12 years we have seen radical environmentalist-use laws to prevent the harvests of timber "guaranteed" in the Clinton plan.

The extreme agenda driven by these groups has ground down our economy and prevented any sustainable growth.

Luckily, one Congressman in Oregon, Greg Walden, has worked hard to develop and pass laws that allow Oregonians back into our forests to harvest timber. By being the original sponsor of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), which provided the avenue to get people back into the

(Continued on page 3)

Corrections

Unfortunately the "Illinois Valley News" staff herpetologist was on vacation for the Feb. 15 issue, so a page 1 photo caption was incorrect.

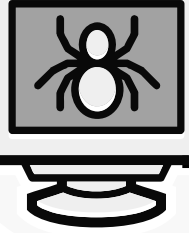
The large color photo actually shows a blue-tongued skink, not an American alligator. Our apologies to Larry the Lizard.

Valley Surf Internet

139 S. Caves Ave. Suite F

(Inside Caves Mall)

592-4117 www.valleysurf.net



Virus & Spyware Removal Special

only \$50

Internet Special -

2 months internet service only \$20

(New sign-ups only)

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING SURVEY

For a Public Schools Foundation





For many years, Medford, Ashland and school districts elsewhere around the country have had educational foundations that support programs in their public schools as a way to maintain a commitment to excellence during times of fiscal uncertainties. Three Rivers School District (TRSD) is considering whether a private nonprofit foundation should be established here to help the District keep that essential commitment to its students.

We would like your opinion on some fundamental questions that will help us decide whether and how soon to take the next step forward in planning for such a foundation. Your answers may remain anonymous if you prefer.

1. Are you familiar with Three Rivers School District, and with the trend of state funding for K-12 education?

☐Yes ☐No

2. Do you believe TRSD should be exploring ways to build on the excellence of its teaching programs outside the normal state-managed funding system?

☐Yes ☐No

3. If your answer to the above is yes, do you think a community based schools foundation may be a good way to address the need?

☐Yes ☐No

4. Do you think there is enough support for education in the community to make this a reality?

☐Yes ☐No

5. Please check any one or more of the following that apply to you:

☐Employed by TRSD

☐Parent in TRSD

☐Site Council member

☐Reside within TRSD

☐Alumni of a County school

☐Interested in public education

6. What educational priorities would you want to see a foundation address? (Check any or all)

☐Curriculum enhancements

☐Teen Counseling

☐Arts

☐Athletics

☐Clubs & Competitions

☐Technology Upgrades

☐Scholarships

☐Other: _____

7. If a foundation is established at a future date, would you be willing to contribute in some way, either through volunteer time or with a monetary gift?

☐Yes ☐No

8. Do you have any other comments about the prospect of a Three Rivers Schools Foundation?

9. As a foundation plan moves forward, would you like to participate in the process?

☐Yes ☐No

Optional:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Note: You may either return this survey to your local school office, or you may mail it to:

Three Rivers School District

c/o Kristen Robbins

P.O. Box 160

Murphy, OR 97533