

Bob's Corner

Although it seems mind-boggling and inconceivable, some of our readers (apparently including a number of visitors) were miffed and critical of a headline in the June 28 issue: Night life 'scumbags' called major problem in city.

This is difficult to believe (from my perspective) because it's no secret that this area, like others everywhere, has a problem with ... um ... the ethically challenged. Maybe calling them scofflaws would help? Is that soft enough? One dictionary defines "scumbag" as "a low, worthless person." Another adds that they are "despicable." Or wicked, shameful and disgraceful.

Those definitions do sound harsh, and I do not like to "label" anyone. One has to pity some in our midst -- the great unwashed and jobless -- living on their Oregon Trail Cards, cadging cash from folks outside businesses, eating free meals from several churches (God bless their work) that provide food, clothing and other assistance. Many of them live in hovels; some I've seen live in tents or find rooms with friends on a catch-as-catch can basis.

It is a sad situation. But we all make choices.

It's just so unfortunate that these sorts of people cannot get hired for work simply because they have no telephone, no transportation, no skills, and they apparently have no access to soap and water. However, they do have the skills and funding necessary to obtain cigarettes, 40-ounce cans of fortified brew, and ... um ... other recreational items.

For some reason, merchants do not appreciate their presence in front of their stores. Just because they're intoxicated and bother customers! Why, some in business even resent them coming into their stores and picking up items and then forgetting to pay for them. Picky-picky.

Still others have found that the rise-at-noon group has so little to do that at night they walk the streets looking for an open church or perhaps someone for whom they can perform a good deed.

This is not to say that those frequently seen in public are criminals. Actually, there are others out there who move under the cover of darkness. They generally keep themselves out of public view.

No matter what, I know that "scumbag" is a bit of a harsh term.

Say, have you been burglarized or your place vandalized or trashed recently by some of those with an attitude of entitlement? Has your life been complicated, or has the criminal element cost you money and caused you heartache?

What would you call them?

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

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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.

Rebuttal to 'Sugars' signature complaint From 'Abiding in The Vine' owners Cave Junction

We would like to clarify a few items in the open letter that was circulated and signed by many concerning the planned opening of Sugars.

We received this letter from a customer, and our store was the drop-off point for duplicate letters passed around town to be signed by those in agreement with the content. The letter was basically a petition begging Larry Goynes to reconsider his decision to open a bar with topless dancers here.

We collected approximately 600 signatures in less than a week with little effort. There was no standing in front of stores or the CJ Post Office. A few businesses had them available for customers to sign.

It was reported to us from one neutral business (i.e., not a religious establishment) that three out of five people gladly signed the letter. That leaves two out of five who were perhaps unwilling to be involved; did not want to take the time to sign; did not know it was available to sign; or who were in agreement with Goynes that this business would be an asset to the community.

It has been reported that

someone was seen adding fictitious names to this letter. This is unlikely because the letter was collected and hand-delivered to Goynes weeks before this was reportedly witnessed.

If, perhaps, this person witnessed this before they were collected, it is possible that what they saw was a mother including the names of her children. Many more signatures could and would have been collected, but the idea was to have it presented to Goynes before the city hall meeting discussing the liquor license for Sugars.

This was an attempt to reach Goynes on a personal level to let him know that the majority of people in this valley do not favor Sugars.

Meth addiction linked to everyday beverage From Larry Warnicke Cave Junction

I have been hearing all the controversy over this addiction to crystal meth, speed, crank, or wire, as it is called on the streets. Its abuse has been blamed on marijuana, alcohol, and even cigarettes as leading to addiction to it.

Did everyone addicted to this drug wake up one day and say they want to do some crystal meth?

First, meth is a strong stimulant in the same way as caffeine. Caffeine is found in coffee, tea, chocolate, most sodas, along with diet pills and other medication in our daily intake. We consume caffeine daily, from childhood.

We start with regular caffeinated sodas, then to the higher caffeine sodas, not to mention all the power drinks of today. We graduate to coffee, espressos, and mochas. From there we go to quad mochas, and there is one

called "911" that will give you a dose of caffeine surpassing any crystal meth high.

The problem is that prolonged use of coffee, with its high acid content and caffeine, will cause stomach problems, shaking, and nervousness.

As this addiction grows, and our bodies need a stronger stimulant, we seek diet pills and other medication to get this same speed feeling without the coffee stomach ache.

Prescription medication is hard to come by and expensive, so we go to the streets for our speed high.

Next we hear about crystal meth. You get the same good, speedy feeling without the stomach ache and cost. The need for stronger dosages in order to keep up with this

addiction has become easier for users. The problem is, our bodies can't handle it, and as our focus turns to keeping up with the need for more and stronger drugs, we get lost (tweaking); and nothing else matters but this addiction.

Our families, jobs, friends and life are not important -- only getting that next meth high.

Not everyone has an addictive nature, as not everyone is overweight or alcoholic because they have an occasional drink. People drink coffee every day, and many indulge all day, and never reach for meth. However, those with an addictive nature and in a position to try meth will soon graduate to its vice.

Young people with their
(Continued on page 3)

Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser

to support the...
Illinois Valley Wild Blackberry Arts & Crafts Festival



Menu:

- Spaghetti with Meat or Meatless Sauce
- Salad
- Garlic Bread
- Coffee, Tea, or Lemonade

\$5 a plate
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Enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner with all the fixings.

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