

Bob's Corner

Fortunately, no large containers were at hand last week whilst I beach-combed along the sandy shore at the Port of Brookings Harbor, or likely no rocks would remain. Yes, I am one of those who walk along



El Jefe y la familia hit the beach

beaches searching for the perfect rock, feverishly stuffing them into all of my available pockets until I look like King Lumpy.

Strangely enough, when I get my treasures home,

they in no way resemble the superior stones they were when I picked them up. Daughter Vicki tells Natalie, 3, that this is because such items are magic, but only at the beach. I think it has something to do with being wet. Or magic.

Like most men, and actually quite a few women, I enjoy flipping, tossing and skimming rocks on bodies of water. But I only throw the ones that aren't magic.

We were in Brookings and Harbor last week for an enjoyable 24 hours, including an overnight stay with Vicki and her husband, Matt. Plus Natalie and Ella Valentina, now at 14 months. They rented a house a stone's throw (see above) from the port.

Ella, by the way, speaks in expressive noises and dramatic pointing gestures. Gets her anything she wants too.

The fam came from Carlsbad in San Diego County, as Vicki wanted Matt to see an area she likes a lot. She went through middle school and high school in Brookings before returning to her native San Diego, and wanted to share the beauty with Matt. He seemed impressed, but whether they'll relocate is (?)

Being with family was much fun. Our son, Mike, and granddaughter Kim, also came, and we had good togetherness. Some good meals too.

However, ye olde editor had to be back to pound the keys; so our outing was brief, but pleasing. The Carlsbad crew stopped to say good-bye last Saturday, as they headed back south.

Meanwhile, I've got to get the sand out of my sandals. And I'm still looking for magic rocks.

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.

Oregon Caves Chevron exemplifies 'service'

From John Harding O'Brien

Monday evening, July 17 ushered in an unexpected delay to my planned schedule. An explosive blow-out to a rear tire on my truck forced me to the shoulder and a need for help, as I was without tools or spare.

A call to Oregon Caves Chevron in Cave Junction, and a short discussion with owner Jeff Stiles put the wheels in action (literally).

Stiles wasted no time dispatching one of his men to assist me in my dilemma. "Bud" arrived in short order, offering me the use of his spare from his own truck until arrangements could be made to get my own from home and brought to the station for the change-over.

What a great testimony of an outstanding businessman and example of humanity to their fellowman are Jeff and "Bud."

Valley's crime deters out-of-state owner

From Rick Lopian La Mesa, Calif.

I have been a property owner in Cave Junction and a subscriber to "Illinois Val-

ley News" for more than 10 years.

I had hoped to build a house and retire there in our beautiful little town in a couple of years. I am concerned about the continuing crime spree and what can be done about it. The "Police Blotter" info each week makes me sick.

Is it that we don't have enough police officers, or is it that they don't care about Cave Junction? Do we need to appeal to the state for help? What are the mayor and city council doing about it?

Maybe we could get a bus from the prison system, and load up all the drunks, derelicts, meth freaks, pot heads, spousal abusers, burglars, vandals and all the other lost souls and ship them somewhere else?

Crime prevention linked to schedule

From Dave Toler Cave Junction

Given the unacceptable level of break-ins and beatings occurring in our community, I can certainly understand the high level of frustration felt by many downtown businesses and residents.

We live here because of the quality of life that our Illinois Valley affords us -- and the level of violent and property crime in Cave Junction certainly threatens that quality of life.

Part of a solution would be for the city to contract for patrol services during hours that would actually be more effective. Why not expend that \$106,000 on an officer patrolling more in

the evening and early morning hours when so much of the crime actually occurs?

The city of Cave Junction is the customer; it should demand services that better fit our needs. Then our business owners can go home and get the rest they deserve in their own homes. The lack of coverage from the sheriff's office is simply unacceptable.

Grants Pass has its own police patrols; therefore Cave Junction is the only municipality in the sheriff's coverage area. Why so little coverage? As your county commissioner, I will advocate strongly for a fair allocation of the resources.

While increased and better-allocated services can offer part of the solution, we must also look to more preventative efforts. The street violence is intolerable.

I am hopeful that we can begin putting more emphasis in our schools on anti-bullying and conflict resolution programs so that we can make a difference where it can really count -- with our youth.

Finally, if we can't get the level of protection we need in Downtown Cave Junction, perhaps we need to look at forming an Illinois Valley Public Safety District. This would better share

the burden for all residents in the valley who benefit from a safe downtown and provide more local control of these critical services.

It also could help in professionalizing the fire district, which is trying to serve a growing community.

Our current problem will likely demand a multifaceted solution. In the meantime, I hope we can all take a deep breath and proceed -- together.

'Back to Dark Ages for BLM,' he says

From Justin Rohde Cave Junction

One government agency is committing fraud and deception on the American people. The Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is destroying Oregon's last remaining old-growth reserves and roadless areas, one fake thinning project at a time.

Last year, the 800,000-acre Medford District offered 83 million board feet of timber for sale -- four times as much as any other BLM district. In the Illinois River Valley, BLM is moving forward with seven old-growth logging projects this year alone, three within the last 30-days, all commercial

(Continued on page 3)

Correction

In the July 12 "Police Blotter" it incorrectly was stated that Aaron Isenagle, 38, with a recorded blood-alcohol content of .14, was cited on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and second-degree criminal mischief. In fact, he was cited only on the DUII charge. The other two items were referred to the county district attorney's office. "Illinois Valley News" regrets the error.

Want Something Fun To Do, Kids? Then come to "Jesus' Kids in the Kitchen" Vacation Bible School

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Any Questions: Mondie, 592-2611

Hope to see you there!

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DEADLINES:

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5 P.M. THURSDAY

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

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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.

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