

Americans ‘identified’

You probably missed it in the rush of news, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American.

So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is; so they would know when they found one. (Good one, mate!) Here’s what he wrote:

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek.

An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani or Afghan.

An American may also be a Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as Native Americans. An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim.

In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God-given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country.

As of the morning of Sept. 11, 2001 Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan. Americans welcome the best of everything: the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best services. But they also welcome the least.

The national symbol of the United States of America, the Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America.

Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of Sept. 11 nearly five years ago, earning a better life for their families. It’s been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, and first languages -- including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did Gen. Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself.

Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.



Roberta Charbonneau and friends at Home Valley Bank (Photo by Michelle Binker)

Toler works to get IVHS ducks in a (funding) row \$50,000 matching grant possible from Rotary

By MICHELLE BINKER
IVN Staff Writer

Each year a yellow, rubber flotilla makes its way from Parkway Bridge in Grants Pass to Riverside Park.

Spectators anxiously await the outcome, as the racers cruise toward the finish, bobbing a couple hundred yards in a blistering 45 minutes. Generous prizes await those who purchased the triumphant bathtub toys.

Grants Pass Rotary Foundation has presented the Rogue Duck Derby for several years. The prizes trend toward the spectacular: \$20,000 toward a new vehicle for the grand prize winner; a cruise of the Mexican Riviera; \$2,500 in home furnishings; and a dozen more besides. Proceeds have gone to fund parks and recreation projects in the Grants Pass area.

Proceeds from the Rogue Duck Derby for the next three years are slated to help three area high schools develop or improve athletic facilities.

North Valley, Hidden Valley and Grants Pass High schools have been planning since fall 2005 with what they would do with \$100,000 in matching funds they’ll receive from the derby. They’ve also been instrumental in securing business sponsorships for the race and raising the cash to match Rotary’s gift.

Illinois Valley High School wasn’t among those schools, and I.V. resident Dave Toler, a member of the Rogue Gateway Rotary Club, wanted to know why.

He took his question to the presidents and presidents-elect of the three Grants Pass-area Rotary clubs which sponsor the derby. He was told that people from Illinois Valley don’t participate in the duck race. He was also told that only three of the 250-odd Rotary Club members in Josephine County were from Illinois Valley.

Toler, a candidate for a seat on the county board of commissioners, told the Rotarians that he believes the Grants Pass and Illinois Valley communities are “drawing closer together,” as GP expands and more people move to I.V. making the trip “over the hill” for work or commerce.

He wanted Illinois Valley to have a chance to

participate.

Toler said, “I went out on a limb. I wanted to make this happen for Illinois Valley also, but I need help getting it going.”

At Toler’s request, the three Rotary clubs agreed to make Illinois Valley one of the recipients. They agreed to a \$50,000 matching grant, which Toler thought might be a more reasonable sum both for Rotary to come up with during three years, and the Illinois Valley community to match.

The effort, Toler said, needs a 501c(3) organization to sponsor it and some decision-making about the focus of the project.

“I ran into a real quagmire in the sheer number of possible projects,” Toler said. He listed completion of an all-weather track at the IVHS athletic field as one possibility. Another would be to provide a new facility for the wrestling team.

“\$100,000 could go a long way, but we have to get our ducks in a row to enter this race,” Toler said.

Retailers must be found who will sell the ducks to their “owners.” Derby ducks are available at Home Valley Bank in Cave Junction.

Other businesses which can sponsor advertising are also needed to join the effort, Toler said.

“Illinois Valley has to step up to the plate to make this happen,” Toler said. “Rotary would really like to see us up and running before the derby on Sept. 23,” he said.

“They’re very receptive to giving I.V. a chance to play.”

Those who would like to help may contact Toler via email: tolerfloyd@cavenet.com, or by phoning 592-4434.

Business sponsors may contact Sandy Powell, Toler’s fellow I.V. Rotarian, at 597-4389.

Suspect in city park criminal mischief ‘caught in act,’ notes sheriff’s deputy

In keeping with reclaiming Jubilee Park in the city of Cave Junction for families and children, spot-checking by deputies has resulted in the arrest of a graffiti suspect.

The suspect, who “tried to escape on foot,” is Chaz Albert Lindsay, 21, said Cpl. Sean Rarey, of the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office. Lindsay is described as a transient caught in the act Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 7:10 p.m.

He was charged with five counts of second-degree criminal mischief, second-degree criminal trespass, and parole violation. He was taken to county jail.

Rarey, officer-in-charge of the sheriff’s substation in Cave Junction, added that “a disturbing element in this case is the fact that there were people in the park who did nothing to try to stop or report the damage that was being done.

“This park, like the city as a whole, belongs to the people who live and work here,” the deputy continued. “The sheriff’s office is proud to stand with the citizens who have drawn the line, and want to take back the region

‘Comfort’ food can devastate waistlines

Is stress knocking your diet off course?

Some people turn to food in times of high stress and anxiety, or when they are feeling blue.

While “comfort” foods like macaroni and cheese, pizza or chocolate fudge ice cream cones are OK in moderation, they can wreak havoc on your diet.

The following tips from CyberWize, maker of Vital StressX, a supplement designed to help cope with stress, will help relieve stress and get diets back on track.

*Keep a food diary. Writing down everything you eat can help you become aware of your eating habits. Keeping track of the foods you eat each day will help you track your eating habits and determine what changes you can make to your diet.

*Exercise regularly. Get off the couch and into action. At least 20 minutes of physical activity three to five days a week can do wonders to not only burn calories, but reduce your stress level.

*Try supplements to help you combat stress. Vital StressX, for instance, contains a unique blend of herbs, called adaptogens, which help to stabilize levels of cortisol (the “stress hormone”) in your body.

*Meditate. Taking some quiet time each day can help you relax. Play a CD of Nature sounds or New Age music, or simply sit in silence and clear your mind. Reflect on an inspirational quote, poem or spiritual book, or practice deep-breathing techniques.

*Join a support group or

from an antisocial minority bent on destroying it.

“Join us -- report criminal incidents -- such as the one Wednesday to law enforcement. Send the message that destructive, criminal behavior is no longer acceptable in our area.”

CJ Security Council listed park priority

Rarey outlined that the citizen participants on the Cave Junction Security Council, which he formed, has established reclamation of Jubilee Park as a priority. City officials, the CJ Public Works employees and citizens “have banded together with the sheriff’s office to turn the park into a beautiful, safe place for families and children.

“As part of the continued dedication by the sheriff’s office to work with Cave Junction on this project, the park is frequently ‘spot-checked,’ enforcing a policy of zero tolerance for criminal behavior.”

He noted that deputies have devised ways to enter the park from blind approaches. In the past, persons hanging around the park -- illegally drinking, performing illegal activities

and other undesirable actions -- would disappear into nearby trees and brush upon the approach of a patrol car.

At one point there was a transient camping area. However, the city cleared out dense vegetation to make the area more open. That, coupled with the zero-tolerance approach, has resulted in a reclaiming of the city park.

Noted Rarey, “Having deputies appear with no warning in the middle of the park seems to be discouraging some elements that do not care to share the park with law enforcement, and they have gone elsewhere.”

The deputy added that on the 16th he “surprised Chaz Lindsay doing extensive damage to the park with a can of white spray paint.

“He made an effort to escape on foot, but was quickly captured and taken into custody.”

Early the next morning, city workers took care of covering the white spray painted damage, much of it on the skate park facility. The volunteer anti-graffiti committee was ready for activation, but its help was not needed.

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Arab-American psychologist Wafa Sultan in an interview on Al-Jazeera TV, translated by The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI):

The clash we are witnessing around the world. . . is a clash between a mentality that belongs to the Middle Ages and another mentality that belongs to the 21st century. It is a clash between civilization and backwardness, between the civilized and the primitive, between barbarity and rationality. It is a clash between freedom and oppression, between democracy and dictatorship. It is a clash between human rights, on the one hand, and the violation of these rights, on the other hand It is a clash between those who treat women like beasts, and those who treat them like human beings.

The Jews have come from the tragedy (of the Holocaust) and forced the world to respect them, with their knowledge, not with their terror; with their work, not their crying and yelling. Humanity owes most of the discoveries and science of the 19th and 20th centuries to Jewish scientists. . . . We have not seen a single Jew blow himself up in a German restaurant. We have not seen a single Jew destroy a church. We have not seen a single Jew protest by killing people. . . Only the Muslims defend their beliefs by burning down churches, killing people, and destroying embassies. This path will not yield any results. The Muslims must ask themselves what they can do for humankind, before they demand that humankind respect them.

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- Herbert Asquith -