

Bob's Corner

This is not a column about puns, although I am fond of the dang things such as: A farmer is a man out-standing in his field, or, Does making bad coffee consti-tute grounds for divorce?

See, every once in awhile we ritters need to take a small break. So this week El Jefe is lapsing into a free-bie column, using stuff sent by Chris Leppert via Virginia Gilliam. And here it is:

Actual signs:

*Toilet out of order. Use floor below.

*In a coin-operated laundry: Automatic Washing Machines. Please Remove All Your Clothes When the Light Goes Out.

*In a London department store: Bargain Basement Upstairs.

*At a construction site: Would the person who took the step-ladder yesterday please bring it back, or further steps will be taken.

*In an office: After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside-down on the drain board.

*Outside a secondhand shop: We exchange anything -- bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

*Notice in health food shop window: Closed Due to Illness.

*In a safari park: Elephants please stay in your car.

*Seen during a conference: For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day-care on the first floor.

*Notice at a farmer's field: The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.

*Message on a leaflet: If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons.

*On a repair shop door: We can repair anything. Please knock hard on the door - the bell doesn't work.

Outback Septic Services Servicing The Illinois Valley Exclusively

If it has been 5 years or longer since you last pumped your septic tank-**Now** is the time to set your appointment before the rain starts. Cost is \$300.00 for a 1,000 gallon tank with an exposed lid

Additional Costs:

Dig & Expose Lid Minimal \$50.00 Charge
Emergency Call Out Fee \$100.00



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financial problems

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power of attorney

Domestic relations

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Criminal - DUII

Real Estate contracts - Foreclosure

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5 P.M. THURSDAYS

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be
accepted until Noon, Fridays 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
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POLICY ON "HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE," DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADS &
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One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$26.40

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to

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(Editor's Note: Views and
commentary, including
statements made as fact, are strictly
those of the letter-writers.)

Typed, double-spaced let-
ters written solely to this news-
paper are considered for publi-
cation. Hand-written letters that
are double-spaced and legible
also can be considered.

'Thank you' submissions
are not accepted as letters.

O&C funds, streamlining, Toler comments From Josephine County Commissioner Jim Raffenburg Grants Pass

For two years, I have
worked diligently to commu-
nicate to all of you the impor-
tance of the federal revenue
Josephine County receives
under Public law 106-393
(the O&C money).

In September 2005, I
wrote a report about the rami-
fications the loss of this
money would have on Jose-
phine County. It is available
o n l i n e a t :

www.co.josephine.or.us
Click on "The County
Commissioners," then "Jim
Raffenburg" and finally "Post
O&C Report." The report
explains that last year's reor-
ganization effort was Phase
One of the larger job neces-
sary to cope with loss of O&C
money, because under state
law, the county budget must
be balanced.

Phase Two will begin to
be implemented on Nov. 1,
starting with further reduc-
tions in senior management
positions. Phase One saw 17
director positions (each with
salaries of more than \$70,000
per year) reduced to 6. Phase
Two will eliminate three
more, replacing them with
one new senior and one mid-
level position, allowing for
more streamlined manage-
ment of county operations,
and saving more than
\$100,000 per year.

The new senior position
will be called "Chief Operat-
ing Officer" (COO). This
position is not a county man-
ager. The COO will have the
same duties and authorities as
the eliminated positions.
Adding the authority required
for a county manager would
compel a Charter Amend-
ment approval by voters.

Phase Two also includes
a phased-in reduction of ser-
vice levels and/or program
closures between Jan. 1 and
June 30, 2007. Specific have
yet to be determined.

This board of commis-
sioners has already done
more in two years to reduce
costs than at any other time in
recent county history. We
have reduced the number of
employees from nearly 700 to
slightly more than 400, and
management positions have
been cut in half.

Considering the above-
noted efforts to reduce costs
by increasing efficiencies, I
was surprised to read in a
recent Guest Opinion in the
Grants Pass "Daily Courier"
that commissioner candidate
Dave Toler asks, "...what
incentive is there for our
county government to be an
efficient organization...?"

He goes on to say,
"Perhaps without the federal
dole, our county can become
more accountable." In fact, he
uses the word "accountable"
repeatedly.

Did all the changes I've
outlined above occur in a
vacuum? Where is the lack of
incentive manifesting itself?

When Toler calls Jose-
phine County's federal
(O&C) revenue a "dole," I
presume he means "charity"
because that is what "dole"
means. While some cynics
might call taxes a charity pay-
ment to government, I do not
believe there is any charity
involved in the money Jose-
phine County receives under
Public Law 106-393.

The federal government

Letters to the Editor

owns 60 percent of our
county land, the vast majority
of which was meant to be on
the tax rolls, but was removed
by the deliberate actions of
Congress. After years of ef-
fort, the O&C Act was passed
in 1937 to permanently com-
pensate the 18 Oregon coun-
ties affected by those earlier
Congressional actions by
mandating that the lands "...
be managed for the economic
benefit ..." of those 18 coun-
ties.

For the next 50 years the
O&C Act worked pretty well
until Congress passed new
environmental laws that ef-
fectively caused timber reve-
nue from those lands to be
"locked up" due to those leg-
islative and subsequent judi-
cial decisions.

For the past six years,
Public Law 106-393 cor-
rected that injustice. This
"safety net" money is paid to
Josephine County in lieu of
the timber receipts as a de
facto PILT -- Payment In
Lieu of Taxes (i.e. property
taxes on the federal land).

For Toler to call this pay-
ment a "dole" and to imply
that we should, in effect, be
glad to be rid of it, is more
than a little confusing to me
as elimination of this "dole"
would mean that we would
now collectively have to pay
this money directly out of our
own pockets.

Just to make sure you
understand what Toler calls a
"new opportunity" -- if you
own a house with an assessed
value of \$200,000 and were
billed for your share of this
"replacement revenue" --
your property taxes would
increase \$600 next year.
Clearly, to spin this new tax
burden as being an
"opportunity" is a stretch by
anyone's standards.

To address the issue of
"accountability," I am writing
a new commentary that ques-
tions how any informed per-
son can claim that an ap-
pointed county manager posi-

tion, which is protected by
labor and contract law, will
be more accountable to the
public than an elected com-
missioner.

A county manager can-
not be recalled, and any true
county manager candidate
would require job security
assurances built into their
contract. Both are potential
barriers to accountability.

If, as Toler suggests,
commissioners become part
time and are not involved in
day-to-day county govern-
ment, the only information
they will have available to
them for vital decisions will
be given to them by the
county manager. That infor-
mation will be "filtered"
through the eyes and opinions
of the person who produces
it. Is that more or less ac-
countable to the public?

Only elected officials are
directly accountable to the
people. That is a different,
and strong incentive for
elected officials to do their
jobs well. We are directly
accountable to you.

If the real power and
authority of your elected
commissioners were ever
transferred to the bureaucracy
in the form of a true county
manager, the job of correcting
that error in the future will
make today's problems seem
insignificant by comparison.

Library district candidate corrects some comments From Lou Levison Cave Junction

I am appreciative that in
the Oct 18 issue, the "Illinois
Valley News" takes an inter-
est in Measure 17-16, the
county Library Tax District
Initiative, and my
candidacy for the district
board of directors should 17-
16 pass.

I was impressed that the
"News" could take my im-
passioned 10,000 rapid-fire
words from an interview and
make a nice little article.
However, I must say

that something was lost in the
translation.

Somehow the phrase,
"competitive salary," got
used in the published article.
This gives the opposite im-
pression than my stated inten-
tion, which was that a
financially stable library
system should allow us to
attract top talent
for lower salaries, because
professionals would have the
chance to run a
library instead of having to do
fund-raising.

Unfortunately, the false
impression that I am advocat-
ing us paying "competitive
salaries," which usually im-
plies higher pay for the
worker, could undermine
taxpayer support of both me
personally and more impor-
tantly 17-16.

I also asked that my home
number, 592-2873, be in-
cluded with an invitation to
phone for questions about me
or 17-16; this was left out.

Outside of these issues, I
want to thank you and say,
keep up the good work.

'Too-far' DeFazio comments cited From Suzanne Cox-Hanan Roseburg

I attended a forum where
the career-politician, Peter
DeFazio, went too far.

With a proverbial, ax-
grinding condemnation he
accused big corporations of
investing our American dol-
lars overseas for their own
profit and alluded to certain
Republicans favoring the tax
cuts to the rich to make it
happen.

How did DeFazio get the
New Zealand properties
(New Zealand is a significant
producer and distributor in
the timber industry too)?
How does that help our tim-
ber industry here in Oregon?

Oh yes, the deceptive
incumbent said that he is for
the people -- why is it just
rhetoric from him? Why do
(Continued on page 3)

Brian Anderson for Sheriff

Experience, Education and Neighbor

*Combined experience, training, and education demonstrate Brian's
preparedness to serve as the top law enforcement officer in Josephine County*



Brian and his wife, Julie, have been married for 26 years and have lived in Josephine County since 1984. They have one daughter.

He is a member of the Rogue Gateway Rotary Club and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. He is a former member of Elks Lodge #1584 and the Greater Grants Pass Rotary Club.

Brian is a Board member of the Interagency Narcotic Team, and Common Ground. He is a former board member of Coalition for Kids, 911 Governing Board, the Greater Grants Pass Rotary Club, and the Rogue Gateway Rotary Club.

Law Enforcement:

Sheriff Daniel, Josephine County
Sheriff Winters, Jackson County
Sheriff Calvert, Josephine County (Ret.)
Sheriff Brandt, Josephine County (Ret.)
Chief Schwartz, Grants Pass (Ret.)
Chief Peterson, Cave Junction, & Junction City (Ret.)
Lt. Dickson, Josephine County (Ret.)
Lt. Harman, Josephine County (Ret.)
Lt. Cobbs, Torrance Police Dept. (Ret.)
Sgt. Warren, Josephine County
Sgt. Kuehmichel, OR State Police (Ret.)
Sgt. Goodpasture, Josephine County (Ret.)
Sgt. Heller, Josephine County
Deputy Mace, Josephine County
Deputy McMillen, Josephine County
Deputy Torres, Josephine County
Deputy Marshall, Josephine County
Deputy Stanton, Josephine County
Deputy Lookabaugh, Josephine County
Deputy Watson, Josephine County
Deputy Schmidt, Josephine County
Deputy Johnson, Josephine County
Deputy Durham, Josephine County
Volunteer Matson, Josephine County
Chris McMillen, G.P. Public Safety
Mike Quinn, Torrance Police Dept. (Ret.)
Ron Ruby, Torrance Police Dept. (Ret.)

Firefighters:

Chief Rich, Illinois Valley
Captain Blakely, Rural Metro
Captain Kuntz, Rural Metro
Captain Prince, Rural Metro
Lt. Lawless, Rural Metro
Lt. Shay, Rural Metro
Tyler Humphres, Rural Metro
Mike Hanna, Rural Metro
Rich Clark, Rural Metro
Seth Morehouse, Rural Metro
Greg Gilbert, Rural Metro

Medical Field:

Dr. M. Hill MD
Dr. Procknow MD
Dr. Snook MD
Diana Sheldon RN
Katy Savage RN
Darrel Clark RN
Alisa Howard RN
Kathy Kieffer RN
Katie Head RN

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