

Bob's Corner

It turns out that many readers enjoy animal stories, even when I relate experiences with our so-cute vomiting and hair-ball-hacking kitty cats. So be it.

Thus, this was the issue in which I was going to speak about our two canine buddies, who contribute their own share of disgusting noises and internal combustion emissions. But that will have to wait because I'm not sure my queasy stomach can handle another issue of intestinal discharges. In fact, I'm having trouble not gagging, just thinking about it.

Seen any good movies lately? And how about those Portland Trail Blazers? Oh, that reminds me of working for a large firm years ago when all the men in my department ate lunch in the company cafeteria, and spoke of nothing but the sport of the season. They knew all the players' names, their game averages, blood types, hat sizes and what they ate for dinner last night. I could not care less about such matters, so I began eating lunch in my office. They didn't miss me, either.

Back to the animal kingdom, I'm still pondering the title for my story about working for a vending machine company in the San Diego Zoo. The working title is "Two Years in Low Gear" because I never could get that Econoline into second gear while maneuvering about the zoo due to the crowds.

Plenty of animals there, from A (armadillo) to Z (zebra). You can always tell the male zebras from the females. The males, you see, have black bodies with white stripes, while their counterparts have white bodies with black stripes. Also, and this is fact, no two zebras have the same pattern.

Once, while I was cruising the zoo looking for empty candy machines, a well-dressed elderly man spotted my van. Well, he didn't spot it; that was actually a reference to the leopards. Anyway, he saw my van and flagged me down. I thought maybe he had gotten a rancid chunk of chocolate -- but no. He handed me a dime, and ordered me to buy him a cup of coffee from a bank of nearby vending machines.

I said, "Sir, why don't you get it yourself?"

He said, "Because the tigers are mating, and I don't want to miss any of it."

I bought his coffee.

We had trouble with squirrels climbing inside the peanut machines; peacocks roosting and pooping on top of some equipment; and moths getting inside the delivery tubes for coffee. It was an interesting two years worth of work, tiger-mating season notwithstanding.

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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.

Siskiyou Field Institute programs are free-will From Andrea King Selma

I had to laugh when I read the insinuation ("Illinois Valley News," Nov. 1, 2006 Letters to the Editor) that Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) is a brain-washing operation.

A glance at the instructors' bios in SFI's 2006 catalog (free for the taking at businesses throughout town) reveals that many of the teachers are or have been employees of BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and other governmental institutions. Many are professors in colleges and universities, and some are schooled by self-direction in the field.

Do you suppose they've been chosen for their homogenous viewpoints?

SFI offers opportunities throughout the year to learn about our surrounding natural world. Tuition is charged (financial aid available). Students who attend are free-will participants.

February's Winter Ecology class will give curious adventurers a chance to be "brainwashed" on Mt. Ashland while wearing snowshoes.

Community planning for Oregon 150th anniversary From Roger Brandt Cave Junction

On Monday, Nov. 20 a community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction to identify events and projects that residents and service organizations would like to organize or sponsor for the celebration of Oregon's 150th anniversary in 2009.

Projects and events that are identified during the meeting will be written into proposals to be submitted to the state review board for the celebration. If the board endorses an event, it will be listed on the state's official 2009 events calendar, and we will receive almost a full year of free marketing and promotion for the event.

There also will be opportunities for receiving seed money, assistance with fund-raising, and help with pinpointing grant opportunities that can support the suc-

cessful completion of projects and events.

Illinois Valley may be in a very good position to get many of its events endorsed because of important events will be happening here in the same year. These include the centennial of Oregon Caves National Monument, the 75th anniversary of the Oregon Caves lodge, the 125th anniversary of the historic Wimer Road, the 75th anniversary of Camp Oregon Caves, the 25th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River corridor, and the 50th anni-

versary of the Kerbyville Museum.

We have a great opportunity to get several of our events on the state's official calendar, and this will mean a greater opportunity for bringing tourist dollars to the community. We also have an opportunity to identify landmark projects that will become a permanent addition to improving our economic future.

This is our opportunity to make changes that will have a lasting effect on Illinois Valley's economy today and in the future.

Letters to the Editor, your community forum

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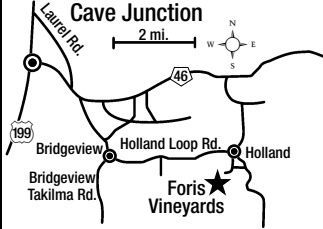
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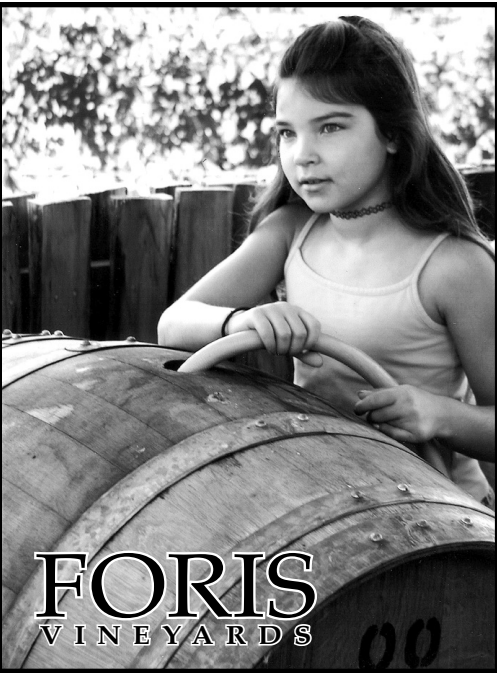
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