

Bob's Corner

Easy pickins' this issue for a topic because our daughter Vicki, and granddaughters Natalie and Ella are visiting from Carlsbad in San Diego County for three weeks. We picked them up at Jackson County/Medford International Airport a week ago last Saturday, and I (PopPop) only got lost on the new parking lot twice. And Jan (she's Nonna) didn't even get upset with me.

It was a late-arriving scheduled flight, landing pretty much precisely at the designated time of 10:05 p.m. Then we got to retrieve the luggage, including a stroller and two car seats. We arrived back in good ol' Cave Junction some time past midnight. And by the time we got through unloading and dealing with all the "stuff," plus a bit of visiting, it was well after 1 a.m. when we surrendered to the arms of Morpheus. (That last is something I recall from one English class or another.)

Anyway, it's quite interesting to have a 4-year-old and an 18-month-old living with you, when you're only used to having two dogs, four cats and each other. Actually, the animals (the four-legged ones) have adjusted fairly well to the newcomers. I'm still trying to not be a grumpy grampa.

I tend to forget that small children are demanding, noisy, sometimes messy, and nearly always oblivious to house-cleaning. But hey, I did help Jan with our three back in the Olden Days. She did the lion's share of the work, but I was there.

Ella and Natalie have a bit of sibling rivalry going, complicated by our two dogs. They're jealous of any attention we give the other guy, let along two grandkids and a daughter. Throw in a cat or two (not literally), and there's a fine recipe for Who's On First? And Where's the Aspirin?

It's really a fun time with the kiddies; they are extremely entertaining and intelligent. Plus, as any grandparent will tell you, their grandbabies are the best and most good-looking kids anywhere on Earth.

That's true. Now excuse me, I have to go help load the dishwasher for the second time today, pick up some spilled cereal, and find out why Ella is banging on the bathroom door and shouting, "MaaaMaaa, MaaaMaaa!!"

Trust me, it's great fun being PopPop and Nonna. I'd trade being El Jefe anytime.

County commissioners, sheriff-elect discuss issues

'I'm a team player and always have been,' board told by incoming top lawman

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

It's no secret that the Josephine County commissioners and eight-year Sheriff Dave Daniel have had their share of problems during the past few years.

A series of lawsuits and public battles have strained relations, with much of the fighting spilling onto the pages of newspapers in the county. But that might all change now that that there's a new sheriff in town.

Two days after addressing the Cave Junction Security Council, Sheriff-elect Gil Gilbertson met with the county board of commissioners to discuss issues.

Board Chairman Dwight Ellis began by congratulating Gilbertson on his election victory. He praised the sheriff-elect's decision choosing Selma resident Donald Fashing as undersheriff.

"In my mind, it was time for a change at the sheriff's office," Ellis said. "I think you bring a lot of fresh ideas and expectations from the rural communities out there."

Commissioner Jim Raffenburg said that it is important for the sheriff's office and the commissioners to work together on funding issues.

"We're committed to making sure there are new revenues coming in for public safety next year," Raffenburg said.

burg said. "We can't save and cut our way out of this dilemma."

Commissioner Jim Riddle said that Daniel did his battles "through the media," and expressed hope that Gilbertson would establish "better lines of communication with the board."

Riddle said that cooperation between Gilbertson and the board will be more important than ever in light of possible federal funding cuts. The county may have to pursue a public safety levy to keep the sheriff's office running, and the suc-

Possibilities of a public safety levy, and bringing more civilian volunteer help to the sheriff's office among current factors, in connection with potential loss of O&C funding.

cess of such a levy would require much teamwork, Riddle said.

"It's going to take some sort of collaborative effort," Riddle said. "If everybody is not on board, it's not going to pass."

Marie Hill, county chief operating officer, said that the county's criminal justice system is "a bit broken as it is." She said that Daniel stopped attending Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) meetings long ago, and expressed hope that Gilbertson would be more involved with that group.

Hill said that aside from revitalizing LPSCC, she would like to resolve "some issues at the substation" in Cave Junction.

"We ought to all work together on the issue of the county building in Cave Junction," Hill said. "Maybe we can work on that early on, because it is an issue."

Hill said that the county just finished reclassifying some of its nonunion employees and is trying to implement those changes before Jan. 1. Gilbertson said that he is looking to similar restructuring within the

tions to current and future problems.

"I'm a team player," Gilbertson said. "I always have been, and always will be."

Gilbertson shared some of his potential proposals with the commissioners, including establishment of a justice of the peace system and a work crew for county inmates, as well as the acquisition of two drug dogs.

"I've got a lot of ideas," Gilbertson said. "There are a lot of things we can do."

Ellis said that he is concerned that some sheriff's deputies, still loyal to Undersheriff Brian Anderson, might decide to leave once Gilbertson takes over. Gilbertson defeated Anderson in the Nov. 7 election.

"I'm a little bit worried about Brian leaving and taking people with him," Ellis said. "The deputies over there are split."

Gilbertson said that he would treat all his employees fairly and equally, regardless of who they voted for. He then went over his promotion policy with the commissioners, stating that there should be "standardized methodologies" for those decisions. Sergeants should have five years of experience, Gilbertson said, and should have to pass the state sergeant exam and oral interviews in order to earn that title.

"I do not believe in the good old boy system," Gilbertson said. "All it does is debilitate the department, and it has."

The meeting seemed to end on a positive note, with Gilbertson and the commissioners expressing hope that they can establish and maintain a good working relationship.

"I look forward to working with all of you," Gilbertson said.

Letter 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.

Remembrance ceremony for Pearl Harbor Dec. 7
From James Fuller,
American Legion Post 70 commander
Cave Junction

We are at peace with Japan: It's 2006.

The horror that their great-grandfathers wrought upon us is not their burden today.

But instead, the act itself -- at 7:53 a.m. Dec. 7, 1941 -- should remind us, more than ever, that the next military surprise attack, from any country, could include a thermonu-

clear device, destroying all life in a 2-mile radius in a split second.

We had the intelligence from our information gatherers, but a communication problem prevented us from warning Pearl Harbor. Today there is unrest about information gathering and the methods for collecting.

Let the lesson at Pearl Harbor strengthen our resolve to protect the United States from future horrors, and the loss of innocent women and children along with our military forces, from an enemy willing to use thermonuclear devices.

On Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in front of Cave Junction City Hall, American Legion Glenn Morrison Post 70 will conduct a remembrance ceremony, with a special tribute to the fallen heroes, at 9:53 a.m. (7:53 a.m. Oahu time), moment of attack.

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(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Fridays 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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Please forgive us if we left out your name; let us know!