

Bob's Corner

Having animals around the house -- that is, inside, living with us -- can be trying, messy and expensive. But the critters also bring enjoyment and laughs with their antics. Fortunately, our four cats are not allowed outdoors, so they don't bring us trophies like half-dead or fully deceased gophers or mice. Or (*shudder*) snakes.

But we have had outside kitties, including one in Southern California (Poway) that brought us a road runner. No jest, he really did. He carried it up our dirt drive with the bird drooping from his mouth, which was clamped around the road runner's neck.

We thought the feathered guy was dead. He wasn't; he was a road runner playin' possum. I don't recall all we did to encourage el gato to let go. He finally did, and the road runner, without so much as a beep-beep, roared off, apparently none the worse for wear from being dragged about. I think the cat was so stunned that he just stood there. With his mouth still open.

Our little dog, Rocky II The Sequel, has been moping around the house with what our son, Mike, calls a broken tail because it drooped so much. A check at the vet determined that Rocky had some bad teeth. So five were extracted, which seems to have perked up the hairy kid (the dog, not our son). Although, he (the dog) was a bit under the weather for about a day after being anaesthetized for the work. But his tail is no longer broken.

Meanwhile, Charlie the Crazy Cat developed a bladder infection. This resulted in our getting some banana-flavored medicine, which we administer with a dropper. Charlie doesn't like it, prompting our daughter, Vicki, to suggest that they give it tuna or mouse flavor.

Co-existing with the four cats and two dogs is "interesting." Especially when all six need to visit the vet or groomer. At the same time. Yikes. Four cats in one dog carrier. Two Nervous Nellie canines in the back seat of the car. Heavy breathing. Drooling. Loss of hair. A bit of snarling. "Accidents." Erk.

But when they're all feeling good, and they're clean and smell nice, well -- it's mighty neat. Makes it more comfortable with several of them sleeping with us too. Especially now that Rocky no longer has death breath.

It can be a beastly world, but one well worth it, "accidents" notwithstanding.

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.

Response to generator response at senior center From Jerry Miller Selma

Gosh, Ruth Samuel makes Sharon Reasor sound like the "grinch" who stole I.V. Senior Center (Letters to the Editor, Jan 3.)

After speaking to several people I was told that the grant written for the center specified that it be used as an emergency center. Also by civic organizations such as the Red Cross for blood drives, a place for the likes of IVMC to hold board meetings, etc. And remember that the Red Cross used the center during terrible time of the Biscuit Fire.

Samuel is right, the power outage was not the cause of the center volunteers. I believe that a tree was the culprit. Oh, about being lucky that the power wasn't out, it was out in Selma also.

I'm sure that all the Illinois Valley appreciates volunteers like Samuel and Reasor and many, many others for their dedication to serving the community. So let us be of good cheer.

About the condition of Welcome signs From J.D. Quinn Selma

As a newcomer to Illinois Valley, I have found that my dream of living in a beautiful rural area has

come true.

However, a couple locations are not so good-looking. I'm referring to the "Welcome" signs at either end of the valley on Redwood Hwy.; one between Selma and the top of Hay's Hill, and the other near Rough & Ready Lumber Co.

Both billboards are in bad condition and need repairs and new paint. Who owns them? Why has nothing been done to make them attractive to residents and visitors alike?

He likes 'I.V. News' coverage, Website From Franklin Barnes O'Brien

This is to compliment your newspaper and its coverage, especially with the addition of more news about Josephine County governmental happenings. I have found your coverage the best in the area.

Also, the daily newspaper in Grants Pass does not have a Website with news. It only has routine contact information, while the "Illinois Valley News" site is a lively spot.

I think that we in this valley are fortunate to have a newspaper of the caliber of "I.V. News." Those who don't know about your publication need to find out about it; it's well worth the effort to get it and read it.

O&C land productivity not limited to timber From Roger Brandt Cave Junction

The loss of O&C funding is trivial compared to what we could be making if O&C land supported Oregon's competitiveness in the global economy.

The O&C Act gives us plenty of room for innovation, so let's be innovative

and get started toward a new era of prosperity.

Timber is not the only way to make money on our O&C land. It takes decades to grow a tree to a minimum size to make lumber; a lifetime to generate an economic output. This will not make us globally competitive. We need to make our O&C lands productive every year -- not once every 50 years.

Tourism, timber, and recreation are industries the global economy cannot take away from Oregon. They represent a future of economic stability and, together, these three industries can make our O&C land productive every year.

Increase productivity on O&C lands for a competitive and resilient Oregon.

D.C. more dangerous than serving in Iraq From Lucy Grant Irvine, Calif.

If you consider that until recently there has been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theater of operations during the past 22 months, and a total of 2,112 deaths, that gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000 soldiers.

The firearm death rate in Washington, D.C. is 80.6 per 100,000 for the same period. That means that you are approximately 25 percent more likely to be shot and killed in the U.S. capital -- which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation -- than you are in Iraq.

Conclusion: The United States should pull out of Washington, D.C.

H.D. PATTON JR

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- William O. Douglas -

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

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