

Bob's Corner

This weak's offering, I thought, should be easy because of all the raw material available from being away for six days. OK, enough with weird words; just wanted to see if you were paying attention.

Our story begins with me getting 2.5 hours of sleep, and Jan getting absolutely no sleep; prior to our leaving home at 3 a.m. to reach Rogue Valley International in Medford by 4 to take a 5 o'clock flight. Yikes: being out that early sure cuts down on traffic, but it's rough on your insides. Such is the life of a small-business owner.

Yes, we planned and contrived to actually be away from a Monday morning until a Saturday night. This was accomplished with blood, sweat and tears -- especially by the "News" staff. Our goal was to spend slightly more than four days visiting our daughter, Vicki; her husband, Matt; and their daughters (our granddaughters!), Natalie and Ella, in Carlsbad on the San Diego County coast.

There's not enough room here to recount all that we experienced. So for now I'll just brush some highlights:

We landed at San Diego International/Lindbergh Field in a driving rainstorm with strong wind. Some welcome to San Diego. Still, it was mostly warm down south, although there was some rain almost every day. We were nonplussed, sort of, upon learning that a snow storm had dumped on Illinois Valley and environs while we were enjoying mostly Mediterranean weather.

Then when we returned, after feeling the warm rays of our native land, we were bombarded with Oregon rain and snow. Some welcome back.

About the only "bad" part of the trip was that on the second leg of returning, from Portland to Medford, our 2:30 p.m. flight didn't take off until 5:10. Oh, well, it gave us time to sit together and read in the appropriate waiting area. And we got to purchase food and drink at Portland International, where the prices for captive audiences, as at all airports, are ... um ... higher than you'd pay elsewhere.

I don't want to say that the food fees were extreme, but I had to donate a pint of blood to raise the money. Just kidding. It was only half a pint.

So we're about caught up after being away. The cats and the dogs were purring and panting (two words I just invented) happy to see us return. And that really is some welcome.

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.

Volunteer opportunities at County Bldg. in CJ From Ann Reser Cave Junction

For those who are members of the Greatest Generation once removed, as am I, and have found a home in this beautiful valley, our community needs their help.

We all know that the county is in a financial bind. As in past hard times when things got tough, people stepped up to the challenge whatever it was and did whatever they could to help.

We have a great taxpayer-owned County Bldg. in town that serves a lot of people in a variety of ways. With the passing of one of our greatest public servants, Marion Clarke, the doors to this building have been closed more than opened due to the lack of volunteers.

It would be greatly appreciated if those who can find three or four hours, one or more days of the week, will stop by Tuesdays or Thursday afternoons and talk to a volunteer. The only requirements are a big smile and a sincere willingness to be of service to others.

'Neck-deep in conspiracy' for 9/11 attack in NYC From William Schneider Cave Junction

I was named after my father's brother, who was killed Dec. 7, 1941, on the battleship USS "Arizona" in Pearl Harbor. I am familiar with our government's involvement in allowing this attack to take place.

Some things upset me, making me very irritated, sometimes angry. Some things upset me very much, causing a churning in my gut that forces me out of my chair and causes me, in any way I can, to confront that which I believe to be wrong to such a degree.

I hate half-baked conspiracy theories, and I hate arguing moot points just to spew and entertain. During the past few years, and most recently the last few weeks, I have seen that of which I speak -- such a thing that churns my gut.

That being hours filled with volumes of evidence from so many sources: military personnel and experts

in the fields of demolition, air traffic control and aviation. Plus numerous incidents of live coverage of first-responders such as firefighters, ambulance, law enforcement, etc., all claiming multiple explosions at the Twin Towers -- and the total lack of any contrary scientific or video-taped evidence debunking so-called conspiracy theories.

Without a doubt in my mind, so much evidence leads me to the conclusion that there are people in our government who are neck-deep in the most heinous conspiracy to commit -- and did commit -- on the people of the United States of America, a mass murder on 9/11.

If there were any way I could, (and feel free to assist), I would file a lawsuit demanding a criminal investigation. I am looking into how to go about it. I want Uncle Sam to prove his innocence.

Had 9/11 been treated as the crime scene it was, every D.A. in the land would be screaming for the arrest and immediate incarceration of suspects, including many people in our own government. It is very possible that George Bush knew nothing of what was coming. Poor little King. However improbable. Remember the stolen election?

Where are the indignant families of flights 93 and 77 who should be speaking out loudly against mounting evidence that there were no bodies or plane parts in either Pennsylvania or the Pentagon conducive to jet liner crashes? How can nine of the so-called hijackers be found alive and well in other parts of the world? Why was our air defense system told to stand down the morning of the hijacking?

People should investigate for themselves. With the evidence that I and several thousands of others have seen, the only way our government could get away with this horror is if we let them. And if we let them, then everyone who has served and died for this country -- including my father's brother and your sons and daughters -- has served and died in vain. God help us all.

The truth is out there. Very soon we will see a wave across this country from all walks of life, demanding accountability and justice, as this information is made more accessible to the public. I urge anyone who is flying a U.S. flag to fly it upside-down as a signal of distress. Seriously.

I can be contacted at 592-3068.

Taking a closer look at Healthy Kids Plan From Jim Trenary Salem

In the debate over Oregon's Healthy Kids Plan, many significant failures of the program are getting little attention.

Most Oregonians agree that something needs to be done to help uninsured children get good health insurance. However, the state needs to take a hard look at this plan and really study the details and funding, which are being passed over by the media and many legislators.

The plan encourages parents, who have health insurance for their kids through their employers, to switch to a state-assisted program. Many families in Oregon responsibly pay for their children's health care and forego other luxuries.

Even at the newly reduced qualifying amount, this proposed plan would be available to families of four with household incomes of \$62,000. The state should be concerned about how many people will opt out of their current plan to a free, taxpayer-subsidized plan.

The state also should be worried about how many families move to Oregon to join the plan. Yes, they do have to prove residency for six months, but the require-

ments are vague. And there is no prohibition of coverage for children who are not legal residents or citizens of the United States.

Finally, the plan requires funding from a cigarette and tobacco tax increase. This means that 20 percent of Oregonians, those who smoke, will be paying for the plan. Additionally, retailers such as myself will lose even more sales to Internet and other black market purchases. Our stores rely on the sales of cigarettes to make a profit, and some of the 3,000 retailers in Oregon will have to lay off employees, many of whom have benefits and health insurance.

Recent news articles have highlighted the fact that cigarette tax collections are declining. Yet the state of Oregon tosses the economic numbers aside and is pushing forward on an important piece of legislation that relies on an unstable funding source. And only half the projected revenue actually goes to the Healthy Kids Plan.

Rep. Jeff Merkley (D-District 47), who is helping to pass the plan, states in a press release that "nothing we will consider this session is more important for families than affordable, accessi-

(Continued on page 3)

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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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One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$26.40

One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$36

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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Abundant clouds, chance of precip. High--46, Low--32.

Thursday, Mar. 1

Overcast as a rule High--52, Low--28.

Friday, Mar. 2

Numerous clouds High--55, Low--37.

Saturday, Mar. 3

Clouds w/rain returning later High--54, Low--40.

Sunday, Mar. 4

Rain lessening in evening High--51, Low--39.

Monday, Mar. 5

Again with the rain High--51, Low--38.

Tuesday, Mar. 6

A peek of sunshine High--56, Low--37.



Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.

*Fri., Feb. 16: 65-43
*Sat., Feb. 17: 62-42
*Sun., Feb. 18: 51-32
*Mon., Feb. 19: 53-31
*Tue., Feb. 20: 45-38 0.55
*Wed., Feb. 21: 38-34 0.63 Snow 3.00
*Thurs., Feb. 22: 39-34 1.06 Snow 3.00

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in Cave Junction at Mountain Wind Farm.

*Fri., Feb. 16: 69-40
*Sat., Feb. 17: 62-41 0.01
*Sun., Feb. 18: 57-30 0.01
*Mon., Feb. 19: 54-29
*Tue., Feb. 20: 48-38 0.81
*Wed., Feb. 21: 38-33 0.75
*Thurs., Feb. 22: 34-33 0.04

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An Invitation to Apply for Appointment to the Three Rivers School District Board of Education

The Three Rivers School District Board of Education invites all interested patrons to apply for a vacant Zone 1 position on the Board of Education. The Board will appoint the new member to fill an unexpired position with a term to run from March, 2007 to June 30, 2009. The new board member will be selected from the list of those who applied.

To be eligible for appointment the candidate must:

- 1) Live in one of the following precincts: Bridgeview, Cave Junction, Illinois, Selma, or Waldo;
- 2) Lived in the district at least one-year immediately preceding the election;
- 3) Not an officer or employee of the School District; and
- 4) Be a qualified voter of the School District.

Applications are available at the District Office and must be received no later than Friday, March 2, 2007 by 4:00 p.m. Please phone 862-3111 Ext. 5217 if you need more information.

Three Rivers School District
Superintendent's Office
P.O. Box 160
Murphy, OR 97533
(541) 862-3111 Ext. 5217

An Invitation to Apply for Appointment to the Three Rivers School District Budget Committee for Zone 2 & Zone 3

The Three Rivers School District Board of Education has vacant Budget Committee positions open in Zone 2 and in Zone 3. The Board invites all interested patrons to apply for either of these Budget Committee positions. The Board will appoint the new Budget Committee members from the list of those who made application.

To be eligible for appointment the candidate must:

- 1) Live in one of the following precincts for:
Zone 2 - Hamilton, Jerome Prairie, New Hope, Robertson, Slate Creek; OR
Zone 3 - Cloverlawn, Applegate, Board Shanty, Riverside South, or Williams
- 2) Must not be an officer or employee of the School District; and
- 3) Must be a qualified voter of the School District. The members of the Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board for a term of three (3) years.

Interested patrons should pick up an application at the District Office or send a letter of interest with a brief description of qualifications. The letter or application must be received at the District Office no later than March 6, 2007. The appointment will be made during the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Monday, March 19, 2007. Written correspondence may be addressed to:

Three Rivers School District
Business Office
P.O. Box 160
Murphy, OR 97533
(541) 862-3111 Ext. 5217