

Bob's Corner



So there I was with my head in the clouds, and the rest of me followed.

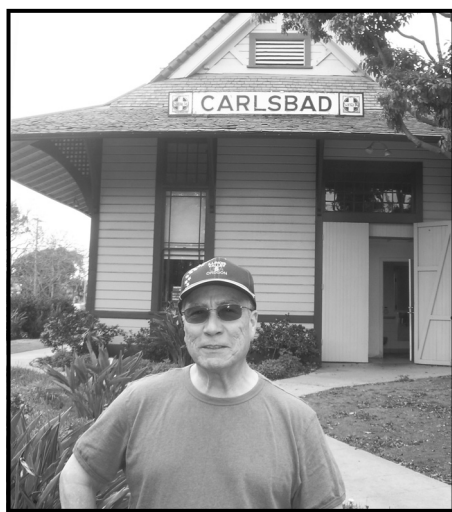
Yes, for a handful of days last week I got to visit family in lovely (mostly) Carlsbad on the Pacific Coast of San Diego County, which is my point of origin. It's now intensely crowded; much too congested, and it's not the type that a decongestant will help.

Because of returning late Saturday night, I am still a bit woozy from all that flying and hurrying to catch up with yelp-



ing ... er, helping to get this issue to the presses. Therefore, I am taking the easy way out and using some photos from this trip.

Remember, a photo takes the place of a thousand words. Wow, I just saved 4,000 words. Be talking to you at more length next issue with a variety of observations.



Weather Watch

Cave Junction

- Wednesday, March 28**
Mostly cloudy
High--50, Low--33.
- Thursday, March 29**
Rather overcast with threat of showers
High--55, Low--33.
- Friday, March 30**
Cloudy with drizzles
High--58, Low--38.
- Saturday, March 31**
Gray skies with slight chance of rain
High--55, Low--38.
- Sunday, April 1**
Sun and clouds
High--62, Low--32.
- Monday, April 2**
Part clouds and sun
High--63, Low--40.
- Tuesday, April 3**
Less clouds
High--73, Low--43.

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

- *Fri., March 16: 77-35
- *Sat., March 17: 72-39
- *Sun., March 18: 66-39
- *Mon., March 19: 58-42 0.47
- *Tue., March 20: 56-40 0.09
- *Wed., March 21: 59-32
- *Thur., March 22: 70-32

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

- *Fri., March 16: 76-32
- *Sat., March 17: 80-36
- *Sun., March 18: 75-36
- *Mon., March 19: 59-37 0.41
- *Tue., March 20: 60-38 0.06
- *Wed., March 21: 60-33
- *Thur., March 22: 70-31

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Toler lists consequences without public safety levy

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Josephine County Commissioner Dave Toler visited the Josephine County Democratic Central Committee meeting Thursday night, March 22 to seek support for a proposed May 15 public safety levy.

Toler began by giving a brief overview of the county's reliance on federal O&C dollars, given in lieu of declining timber receipts.

"O&C federal money has dominated the county's funding forever," Toler said at Fruitdale Grange Hall in Grants Pass.

He pointed out that the county did not collect property taxes during the 1970s, due to an abundance of federal funds. These days, the

county collects those taxes, but at a relatively low rate.

"Josephine County has the lowest permanent tax rate in the state of Oregon," Toler said. "Now we're paying for it."

If the levy passes, Toler said, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) will be able to provide five around-the-clock patrols; the county jail will be run at a 190-bed capacity; and the district attorney's office will have 10 deputy D.A.'s.

Without federal funds or a levy, JCSO would be reduced to one patrol car for 20 hours out of each day, Toler said. The jail would operate at a 30-bed capacity "at the most," and the D.A.'s office would be down to three deputy attor-

neys from its current nine.

Toler emphasized the need for Grants Pass city residents to support the levy. He said that if the levy fails, the "loudest scream" will come from them, as they are used to a higher level of service than county residents.

"If you're in the city of Grants Pass, in some ways, you'll be hit harder than rural areas," Toler said.

Toler applauded Oregon's federal representatives for their continuing attempts to secure O&C funds. However, their public proclamations could have the unintended consequence of compromising the levy passage.

"Those efforts are really making it difficult for our levy," Toler said. "Voters are saying the problem is

solved already."

He said that user fees could be increased at some county agencies, and noted that the parks department's \$2 day-use fee is "going very well." Funds collected through that fee have allowed the parks department to become self-sufficient, Toler said.

The county Democratic Central Committee then voted overwhelmingly to endorse the levy. Toler expressed much gratitude for that decision.

Josephine County Republican Central Committee Chairman Herb Carter said that Commissioner Dwight Ellis is scheduled to appear at that body's meeting Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. at Fruitdale Grange Hall.

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.

A quaint village tale decrying citizen apathy From Carolyn Fosmore Cave Junction

Once upon a time, there was a quaint little village tucked in the Siskiyou Mountains of Southern Oregon. For many decades, the village had suffered from high poverty rates and a struggling economy.

Decades of hard times had led to a community that seemed to care little about its village government.

While the village struggled economically, the rest of the West Coast continued to urbanize at a rapid pace, thus shrinking the supply of rural villages. This little village, long ignored by economic interests, now had what many on the West Coast wanted: a quaint, rural setting with a beautiful climate and abundant recreational opportunities. Suddenly, this village was in demand.

Developers from outside the area began arriving. They were amazed at what they found. Not only was the village's beauty and friendliness just as they had heard, but the village leaders were totally unaware of the value of what their village possessed. Still believing their village had little to offer, the village leaders were willing to help the developers in any way they could.

And the citizen apathy was truly amazing.

Unlike nearly every village in Oregon, because no citizens wanted to participate, the village had no planning commission. Without one, the citizens were out of the way.

Village leaders allowed gravel driveways, subdivisions with no curbs or sidewalks. Zoning didn't matter. Village leaders would stuff whatever the developer wanted into whatever place they wanted it. And the village

citizens didn't seem to care.

Despite unprecedented growth, the village had no professional planner. When the village lost its only engineer who oversaw development projects, village leaders said that was fine, they didn't need one. And the people of the village went along their own way.

The village sewer plant began operating over capacity. Major spills went into local streams. Streets were not maintained during ice storms, and people were injured. The cost of having no planning began to be impossible to ignore.

Suddenly, the people of the village began to wake up. They began to attend council meetings and asked questions. In the nick of time, the people of this village overcame their comatose apathy and got involved in their village.

Happily, the village was saved from sure destruction.

Bush 'lying, praying' seemingly acceptable From Wally Hardie Selma

I recently saw a poll that showed the percentage who would not vote for candidates who are Black, female, or of some specific religion.

The very bottom of that entire list of those who would not be voted for was an atheist.

Not understanding why, I took my own poll. Calling at random 80 people, I asked, "Could you vote for an atheist for president, and if not, why not?"

Of the 80, 16 said they could and would if the person was qualified. Two asked, "What's an atheist?"

Fifty-eight said "no" because an atheist could not be trusted (or words to that effect), adding that we must have a religious man we can trust, a man of honor; we need a leader with integrity, a man that does not lie, (or words to that effect).

At the end of each of the 62 calls, I asked "Like President Bush?" Fifty-nine hung up on me without a response, and the other three

said "Yes," and I hung up on them.

After serious thought I came to the conclusion that most of the people want to be lied to by a man of deep faith, with integrity, exactly like George Bush.

So the answer seems to be, lie like hell and pray 10 times a day on public television, so the public can see how honest, sincere and trustworthy you are.

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Home: 592-6692
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Correction

A page 5 article in the March 21 issue about a meeting of the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce board incorrectly stated that a proposal to trade membership lists with I.V. Merchants Association was received. In fact, the proposal is to swap 2007 memberships.

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