

# Bob's Corner

Soaked up some California sunshine and culture recently during a visit south to historic Olvera Street in El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles. I was actually headed for Carlsbad in San Diego County, but decided to visit the birthplace of "L.A."



Street compound, which includes There's also a good range of booths selling Mexican curios (aka knick-knacks) and Mexican candy. Major sugar, but quite tasty. Sticky too.

The collection of curios includes maracas, which drew the attention of Natalie, nearly 5, and Ella, nearly 2. They loved the rattling so much that on the car trip from L.A. to Carlsbad they serenaded their PopPop (that's me, Grandpa Bob) for about a hour as I sat in the back with them. It was Maraca Madness, a real battle of the beans, especially when they smacked each other's maracas together. But eventually they fell asleep.



One feature of Olvera Street is a traditional shaded plaza. It includes a statue of King Carlos IV of Spain (that's IV for fourth, not Illinois Valley), who was responsible in 1781 for granting the land for the pueblo that became the city of Los Angeles. There was a group of elderly men in one corner, discussing world events and what to have for lunch. There was a stand called Mr. Churro. And there was a fruit counter with a young man in front who asked everyone if they'd cash a check for him. He had a lovely, melodious voice, but no takers on cashing his check. The fruit seller eventually made him leave, as he was annoying customers.



Strangely, the only food sold on Olvera Street is Mexican cuisine. I loved it -- a place where all the menus offer soul food for those of us with Mexican taste buds.

Olvera Street, across from Union Station, began as a short lane called Wine Street. In 1877 the street was extended and its name changed to Olvera Street in honor of Agustin Olvera, who owned a home at the end of the street across from the plaza. He was the first county judge of Los Angeles. (That's it for the hard history today).

Enjoyed the visit, but was pleased to head south to Carlsbad. Despite the maracas serenade.



# 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.

## Presidential stem cell position criticized From Wally Hardie Selma

Only this President Bush, with the button-down mind of a fundamentalist, would ever, ever consider putting the very slim possible use of a stem cell in front of the life-saving potential of that very same stem cell.

And yet, that is exactly what President Bush has done and is doing. It is difficult, if not impossible, to believe that anyone, let alone the president, would not allow medical science to not only save millions of children suffering from life-threatening disease, but the millions yet unborn.

One would have thought that this mindless thinking went out with the passing of the Dark Ages. But President Bush is living proof it has not. His being elected should make all of us much more aware of how one man will use his personal views to push his own agenda and turn his back on the rest of mankind.

It was this same thinking that stoned witches, and condoned slavery. It is also a part of President Bush's reasoning when he said, "I believe in DNA, but I don't believe in evolution." Why hasn't someone informed him that DNA is evolution?

But logic and the need to keep one's job, I suppose, play a larger part than trying to educate a mind-set that is totally inflexible. Or perhaps

it makes more sense when understanding this administration is the most incompetent and corrupt we have ever known. Bar none.

## Special interests boost forest recreation prices From Commissioner Charles J. Hurliman Tillamook County

Attentive forest practices guarantee needed dollars for campgrounds, outdoor recreational desires and the environment that we have come to expect in the Northwest.

Historically forest management (timber harvest) was the funding stream that provided the needed dollars for recreation. Special-interest groups have attacked forest management with lawsuits to stop forest harvest. With the lack of forest management we are setting our forests up for uncertain, unstable futures.

Thoughtful forest management plans ensure predictable timber and revenues for our schools and local economies, diverse habitats for wildlife and fish and recreational opportunities.

I have issues with paying more for recreational opportunities, schools, roads and social services, due to the inclination of special interests.

## Unplanned pregnancies: 'People need to care' From Mary Lefner, executive director, Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley

On Wednesday, April 18 in a 5-4 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law banning partial-birth abortion as constitutional.

The issue of abortion has been politicized, argued and promoted for more than a generation so that the true understanding of the procedure is today misunderstood and taken for granted.

The terms referring to abortion include words like "choice, the removal of fetal tissue, or the products of conception and the right to choose." All these terms mask the reality of what is actually being aborted -- a human life -- a baby.

The beloved children's author Dr. Seuss said it best, "A person is a person no matter how small." Whenever a life is ended prematurely, no matter the circumstances, there are psychological, emotional and spiritual repercussions for everyone involved.

At the Pregnancy Center, we know first hand that abortion is not the easy solu-

tion to a problem, but the addition of many new problems in people's lives that usually last for years. Abortion not only ends a life, but it hurts women, often destroys relationships and scars futures.

There are, however, positive alternatives.

As a community, we need to help those facing an unplanned pregnancy with the support they need that doesn't lead to regret and additional pain, plus elevate and encourage the standard of purity and marriage. To do any less is to continue to allow people to suffer and children to be lost.

What is needed is for people to care.

## Business group backs justice system levy From Alex Pawlowski, board president, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development (SORED)

The SOREDI Board of Directors urges the voters of Josephine County to consider closely the immediate and long-term implications from the drastic cuts planned for the county's criminal justice system.

SORED also urges support for the proposed special property tax levy as presented by the county commission as a necessary short-term solution for maintaining the business and living environment in Josephine County.

The quality of living and the excellent climate for business in Southern Oregon have long been among the most important benefits used by SOREDI to attract or retain businesses and jobs for the region's economic growth. However, the pending loss of substantial federal funding from the Secure Schools and Communities Act poses a threat to the quality of living and business climate in Josephine County.

SORED regularly works with business prospects looking to Southern Oregon as a possible location for an expansion or new investment, and those potential businesses place a great deal of importance on the

quality of living and positive climate for business.

The potential effects to Josephine County's criminal justice system with the pending cuts to the district attorney's staff; reductions in the available county jail bed capacity; and downsizing of the sheriff's patrol will mean serious implications to the future business climate and quality of living in Josephine County.

The overall criminal justice system for Josephine County faces such drastic reductions as to place in question the ability for the county to maintain the safety and protection for existing or future citizens and businesses.

## Soldier's view: Insurgents must be out or '9/11' again From Steve Lyons Cave Junction

I received a communication from the Patriot Guard organization that had a letter from SPC "Doc" Bryant Shurley, a 2/5 Cav, 1st CB U.S. Army medic who has been in Iraq nearly four months.

Here are some excerpts that you won't find in reports from the major media:

"I'm tired of hearing the media's skewed version, the politicians squabbling over what they read in a report, and the average ill-informed American ranting about things he knows nothing about. Since I've been here I've learned more about this country than a year's worth of watching CNN.

"There are three major factions here: Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds. The Shiites are in the majority, but Saddam was a Sunni, so he kept the Shiites in check. Everyone hates the Kurds, who are Christian and in the vast minority. The Kurds received the brunt of Saddam's murderous tyranny.

"Now that he is gone, the Shiites have taken control of Baghdad. The largely peaceful Sunnis are now the victims of radical Shiite terrorism. So the young Sunni men, who can no longer go to work and support their families, do what all young men would do. They join (Continued on page 3)

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## Weather Watch

### Cave Junction

- Wednesday, April 25**  
Numerous clouds breezing through  
High--68 Low--36.
- Thursday, April 26**  
Spots of sunshine  
High--68, Low--38.
- Friday, April 27**  
Infrequent sunshine  
High--70, Low--45.
- Saturday, April 28**  
Continued cloudiness  
High--74, Low--39.
- Sunday, April 29**  
Increasing sunshine blowing in  
High--75, Low--36.
- Monday, April 30**  
More sun, wind then clearing  
High--70, Low--37.
- Tuesday, May 1**  
Mostly sunny with periods of clouds  
High--78, Low--38.

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Cell: 660-7342  
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