

Bob's Corner

The Rods' Rancho is a bit more lively these darn-hot days, as daughter Vicki with our grandgirls Natalie, 4, and Ella, 2, are here from Carlsbad in San Diego County for a visit. It took a few days, but our kitty-cat quintet finally is growing accustomed to the two smaller of our guests.

In fact, *Crazy Charlie*, the black-and-white whirlwind and escape artist, has taken to them with gusto. He thoroughly enjoys having them play with him. The girls like it too, especially having *Charlie* chase them up and down the hallway as they drag a length of string or green garden tape. They also invented a game using part of our living room décor so that our tuxedo cat bats furiously at pieces of colored reed they dangle and wiggle for him.

Only a few scratches have resulted. No, not the ones on the furniture; the ones on the kids from a rambunctious feline.

We took the California trio to Lake Selmac, and Natalie caught her first fish while Ella tried to fill the lake with rocks. Fortunately, Natalie is fond of bugs and such, so handling the worms was no big deal. She caught three fish, which all were returned to the water, as they were real small. However, catching three is nothing to sneeze about, although she kept asking about eating them. We explained; she accepted.

It's a whole new lifestyle for us with small children about. I had forgotten (Jan had not) that raising and taking care of kids is a full-time endeavor. The fun never stops. Feeding them. Bathing them. Changing diapers (for Ella). Keeping their clothes clean. Dealing with tantrums. Dealing with sibling rivalry. Dressing them. Getting them out of the house and into the car or outside. Shoes on/shoes off. Quite interesting. Phew, makes me perspire just to think about it.

Like many youngsters, Natalie and Ella have two voice volumes: inaudible and Force 10. Little Ella calls herself "Aya" with a hard A. She wants to do everything herself, so we hear "Aya do it" many times daily. She has quite a vocabulary, but expresses gratitude by saying, "Kack you." Upon arising in the morning, she'll say, "Eat!" Right to the point.

Big sister Natalie takes care of Ella, although there are times when they squabble over toys or what-have-you. Ella's response to being denied is, "I need it!" Sometimes Nat's response is, "I had it first!" But she often helps her sister, even to comforting her when Ella demonstrates her 2-year-oldness when it's bedtime. Screaming/yelling/anger. She does not want to sleep. Natalie speaks soothingly and lies with her. Pretty neat.

Our 11-year-old granddaughter, Kim, who lives in Cave Junction, deals well with both little visitors. She reads to them and plays games, which Natalie loves a lot. Of course, Ella observes and gets involved as best she can.

Like most of us when we were 4 or so, the play scenarios involve major circumstances with the caveat, "But you don't know it." Example: "See, you're driving your car and it's on fire, and one wheel fell off, and the police are chasing you, and there's an earthquake, and it's the end of the world. But you don't know it." I've always enjoyed stories like that.

But you don't know it.

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.

Guv's hound-hunting an 'outrageous slap in face' From Lisa Rohde Siskiyou Project Cave Junction

I was heartbroken to learn that Gov. Kulongoski signed into law HB 2971, a bill reinstating hound hunting of cougars in Oregon.

This is an outrageous slap in the face to Oregon voters, who approved Measure 18 in 1994 banning the cruel practice of chasing cougars with hounds. Unfortunately, we can now expect more cougars to be killed in Oregon than ever before.

The magnificent Siskiyou Wild Rivers area of Southwestern Oregon boasts outstanding large tracts of wildland suitable for many predator species including cougars. The real problem is not too many cougars, but too many deer and other species that would ordinarily be kept in check by large predators.

By facilitating a natural balance between cougar and deer populations, we could reap many benefits, including fewer vehicle collisions with deer, fewer cases of Lyme disease, and lessened agricultural losses.

The state's Cougar Management Plan needs greater emphasis on non-lethal steps such as educating people about how to prevent conflicts with cougars. Humans can learn to co-exist with wildlife.

Killing should be used only as a last resort.

The Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife should immediately halt its Cougar Management Plan until the plan undergoes rigorous peer review to ensure scientific credibility.

Why shouldn't name be Deer Creek Valley? From Fred Krauss Selma

I have lived for 75 years in Selma that we call Deer Creek Valley.

There are a lot of nice people here and in the Illinois Valley too. I think that Illinois Valley should start at Sauer Flats and let you people retain the name, "Deer Creek Valley."

Selma residents who read this can write a letter to the county commissioners if they are interested in making a change.

Selma Center appreciates support by 'I.V. News' From Reni Schaeffer Illinois Valley

The volunteers at Selma Community Education Center are so grateful to you for keeping the Center in the news. Your support of the library, as well as all our other endeavors, is invaluable.

It is so rewarding to see the results of the publicity you have given us. We have added new members, as well as new volunteers for the office, all as a result of your most-recent story.

Use of the library also has risen.

She finds communities with gates 'insulting' From Linda S. Tedder Cave Junction

Here on Schumacher Street, new homes are being built. But who is buying them?

And why gated communities? Come on, this is Cave Junction. Who or what are builders gating in/out? What are they afraid of?

This is a very nice area. Why the gates? What Cave Junction does not need is the attitude of elitism from people who don't already live here. If they did live here they would know that the need for a gated community is not a need at all.

In fact, it almost has the feel of racism. Gives us a bad feeling all around. Builders should go to the larger cities where real crime is a real norm. Then they and their buyers could just feel so safe and warm behind a gate.

This is Cave Junction -- population under 2,000.

Builders have insulted the residents of this town with this gated community.

County board wrong about airport advisers From Roger Brandt Cave Junction

The disbanding of the Josephine County Airports Advisory Board has generated a great deal of public misunderstanding due to incorrect information given by county commissioners.

I have attended almost all advisory board meetings, and I would like to provide the following insights.

The commissioners claimed that there were rampant arguments at meetings, but I can verify there was never an argument at any of the board meetings that I attended.

However, there were many complaints, almost all of them about the same person. I heard many business owners and private citizens describing this person as deceptive, evasive, inaccurate, inequitable, obstructing, and hostile to business owners and business development.

During the four years that I have been attending board meetings, I have personally experienced and observed behavior by this person that validates every word board members, business owners, and private citizens have used to describe him. The lack of business development at the airports appears to be largely caused by this person.

And despite the fact that the advisory board tried to deal with this person as part of its efforts to bring businesses to the airports, the county commissioners removed the Airports Board and put this person in charge of business development at the airports.

I have personally observed the most-recent Airports Board and the former Illinois Valley Airport Advisory Board attempts to bring in businesses. However, the county commissioners have given them no power to set these ideas in motion.

The Airports Board was given the authority to provide "advice" on business development opportunities, but the decision on what businesses were allowed to be developed is ultimately the decision of the county commissioners. They are

well aware that the Airports Board acts only in an advisory capacity, and that it was very improper, if not deceptive, for them to publicly deflect the responsibility for business failure at airports away from themselves and onto a group of volunteers with the lowest level of authority.

Let's be honest. The first chore given the combined airports board by the county commissioners was to create new bylaws for the board, not business development. The board produced draft bylaws, but it took months for the county commissioners to approve them.

This left the advisory board drifting aimlessly for the first months it was in operation and, as is perfectly understandable, it didn't get much done during that time. The commissioners need to acknowledge their role in setting the foundation for poor productivity in citizen support groups such as the Airports Board.

The claim that the advisory board was disbanded to save money is comically ironic. It is a volunteer group. Members covered their own expenses and spent hours of their personal time driving to meetings, organizing committees, and providing written input, all of which was done at no cost to the county.

The county commissioners asked for their help, and the Airports Board members gave freely of time and money for the benefit of Josephine County. It is hauntingly tragic that the dedication of these people is being obscured under a cloud of contempt and blame, and stamping them publicly with a label of failure.

No one has said, "Thank you" to any of the board members. They include Bill Gettles (owner of an airplane repair business at I.V. Airport), Bob Bleaden (a Selma resident and retired professional airline pilot), Kurt Krauss (owner of Krauss Kraft), Luz Moore (Century 21 Harris & Taylor real estate agent), Mike Schmeltzer (building contractor), Andy Chen (Sterling Development), and, in respectful memory, Gerry Sterling (business developer).

The county commissioners were wrong when they publicly declared the work of these people to be a waste of time.

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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, July 11

Yikes!

High--104 Low--60.



Thursday, July 12

Continued hot with a

few clouds

High--99, Low--57.



Friday, July 13

Some clouds and

warm

High--91, Low--49.



Saturday, July 14

Sunny with more

clouds

High--88, Low--49.



Sunday, July 15

Clouds with some

sun

High--92, Low--50.



Monday, July 16

Again, hot and mostly

sunny

High--98, Low--48.



Tuesday, July 17

Sunny and balmy

High--93, Low--47.



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

*Fri., June 29: 70 - 52

*Sat., June 30: 80 - 43

*Sun., July 1: 76 - 46

*Mon., July 2: 85 - 48

*Tue., July 3: 96 - 59

*Wed., July 4: 101 - 59

*Thurs., July 5: 100 - 66

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

*Fri., June 29: 79 - 40 0.01

*Sat., June 30: 79 - 40

*Sun., July 1: 77 - 41

*Mon., July 2: 81 - 45

*Tue., July 3: 93 - 47

*Wed., July 4: 98 - 52

*Thurs., July 5: 97 - 62

Illinois Valley News

www.illinois-valley-news.com

An Independent Weekly Newspaper Co-owned and published by Robert R. (AKA Bob or El Jefe), Editor and Jan Rodriguez

Entered as second class matter June 11, 1937 at Post Office as Official Newspaper for Josephine County and Josephine County Three Rivers School District, published at

321 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523

Periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523

Post Office Box 1370 USPS 258-820

Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330

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Volume 70, No. 17

Staff: Michelle Binker, Zina Booth, Josiah Dean, Scott Jorgensen, Millie Watkins, and Tina Grow

Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

5 P.M. THURSDAYS

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

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One year in Josephine County - \$22.80

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