

Bob's Corner

What with Labor Day lurking around the corner, I am reminded of the story about a meeting of leaders regarding the global population and women going into labor to give birth.

"My friends," intoned the chairman, "somewhere in the world a woman gives birth every 25 seconds. What are we going to do about that?"

One delegate responded, "First, we've got to find that woman and stop her!"

Beyond that, with shaggy Labor Day ready to provide a three-day respite for many -- newspaper folks not included -- I thought it would be "interesting" to recount my adventures in Labor Land. My first official attempt at getting paid for working was outside a Safeway store in the Linda Vista section of San Diego. My line, with prompting from an older kid, was, "I'll push your cart to your car for 25-cents." Didn't work.

Then I opened a Kool-Aid stand in front of our house on Dunlop Street. Did well until the neighborhood bully came by and drank all my profit. I never asked my parents for cash, except when I was in the sixth-grade, and thought that I'd enjoy an allowance like my buddies. My Dad told me that I didn't require an allowance because I got everything I needed. Well, everything I needed except a Buck Rogers decoder ring. I still didn't get an allowance. I only wanted four quarters a week, but Dad told me to get a job, which I did a bit later.

In-between I mowed lawns. Trimmed the edges, raked the grass and swept up all the debris. For 25-cents per yard. But hey, this was in the early 1950s when a quarter went a lot farther than today. In fact, a quarter then took me to the Linda Theater for a Saturday matinee with two full-length movies, several cartoons and some serials. Plus a large bag of popcorn. Pretty good for a fourth of a buck.

Boy, I'm dating myself. OK, I still remember elevator operators, curb feelers, Coca-Cola in glass bottles, only black-and-white TV, wide white-wall tires, TV dinners that tasted like the box they came in, and quarters made of silver.

Oh, about that allowance request (see above). I got the standard lecture about "when I was your age." You know, he delivered newspapers that sold for 3-cents each; he had to walk barefoot in the snow; and he and his family lived on day-old bread and surplus pinto beans. Actually, part of that was true, which I found out as an adult.

Well, this is starting to get out of hand for space. So I'll just fast-forward through my labors: newspaper carrier, change boy at the San Diego Zoo for Canteen Service, route-man and equipment deliverer for the latter, high school snack bar worker, service station attendant (three weeks worth), cafeteria staffer, catering company worker, copy boy at the former San Diego *Evening Tribune*, reporter/photographer at the latter, public relations flack for NCR Corp., reporter/photog and news editor for the former Escondido *Times-Advocate*, and news editor and publisher of the *Curry Coastal Pilot* in Brookings, Ore.

Which brings our labors to being editor and publisher, with my wife, Jan, of the very newspaper you're clutching, for the past 21 years. Lotta' labor; probably not as much as some out there, but at 63 estoy mas que harto de todo este ruido. Hey, can I borrow a quarter?

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Aug. 29
Plenty of sunshine
High--93 Low--57.

Thursday, Aug. 30
Again hot and mostly clear
High--98, Low--55.

Friday, Aug. 31
Sunny and quite warm
High--93, Low--51.

Saturday, Sept. 1
Sunny and continued warm
High--91, Low--51.

Sunday, Sept. 2
Sunny and partly clear
High--89, Low--52.

Monday, Sept. 3
Bountiful with some sunshine
High--87, Low--46.

Tuesday, Sept. 4
Warmer with some clouds
High--92, Low--51.

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

*Fri., Aug. 17: 80 - 43
*Sat., Aug. 18: 77 - 47
*Sun., Aug. 19: 74 - 55 0.35
*Mon., Aug. 20: 83 - 56
*Tue., Aug. 21: 89 - 64
*Wed., Aug. 22: 88 - 62
*Thurs., Aug. 23: 94 - 52

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

*Fri., Aug. 17: 81 - 40
*Sat., Aug. 18: 78 - 44
*Sun., Aug. 19: 73 - 54 0.52
*Mon., Aug. 20: 82 - 52
*Tue., Aug. 21: 86 - 64
*Wed., Aug. 22: 86 - 58
*Thurs., Aug. 23: 92 - 48

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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.

Barbed wire fences causing harm to deer

From P. Kisiela
Cave Junction

I have often thought of writing to the newspaper, but this time I am compelled, by seeing the results of peoples' callousness in my own yard.

I moved to the valley about seven years ago. Since then, many properties around here have been sold, and many people put up fences, more than a few with barbed wire on the top. Not because they keep livestock; maybe they're just not used to living in the woods.

Problem is, the deer that live here don't know how to move somewhere else. The fawns often get hung up on the fences that now cross where they used to walk. I've seen a young fawn hung up on a fence with all the skin on its leg torn off, the leg a bloody mess. All because the fence got put up crossing their path and the mother didn't realize (since she's only an animal) that her fawn could not jump.

Did the owner care? No, not even when we told him about the bloody results of his fence.

Recently, a doe with two fawns walked through our property. I know this deer; deer trails cross over our property. One of her fawns has skin scraped off all over her neck and part of her head and ear. Her eye is closing because of swelling.

This is not a dog or other animal attack: it is a fence injury.

If people love barbed wire fences because it makes them feel so safe from vicious deer, maybe they are living in the wrong place. Human beings can easily snip or jump over wire fences, so these fences will not protect anyone from human criminals. None of these people have livestock to protect, and few even have gardens. All their fences do is injure the deer.

There is no reason why people can't use their eyes and hearts and when they see a deer trail -- either make a small opening or lower the fence at that part. At least mark the top wire of the fence so the deer can see it clearly.

If the fence serves no purpose anyway (no livestock, no loose dogs, and not high enough to keep people out), why not consider the deer? They're God's creatures and deserve to live as much as humans deserve to live.

The law of karma -- as you sow, so shall you reap -- doesn't just mean the harm we cause to humans. All pain we cause must be reckoned eventually.

Regarding air quality, DEQ, R&R biomass

From Elaine Wood
Selma

On July 2, the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) mailed a summary of the public comments, along with its responses, to those who submitted comments regarding Rough & Ready Lumber Co.'s application for a new air quality permit for its proposed new boiler and biomass operation.

The most recurrent theme among the comments

submitted to DEQ was that we need a baseline measurement of current local air quality and pollutants before Rough & Ready is allowed to proceed.

The written response to what I see as a pressing need is, "There are no immediate plans by the DEQ to install an air quality monitor within the Illinois Valley area. Although additional monitoring is desirable and beneficial, resources are currently not available for all of Oregon's air sheds."

DEQ accurately has noted that the air quality in Illinois Valley is far better than in Medford. However, it also said that until our air quality rivals that of Medford we can expect no monitoring. This will make it extremely difficult to quantify adverse changes to our air quality after the new boiler and biomass operation has been allowed to proceed.

I feel that the 20,000 citizens of Illinois Valley deserve much better than this.

Winner Take All Bingo
3-game sheet 25¢

Sat., Sept. 8
Noon to 4 p.m.
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Snack Bar opens at 11 a.m.
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Refreshments provided

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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.)

POLICY ON LETTERS: Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor provided they are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. Generally, one letter per person per month at publishers' discretion. Letters are used at the discretion of the publishers. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be levied if a letter is inordinately long in the publishers' opinion.

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
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We couldn't have done it without you!

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