

Bob's Corner

Someone once noted that certain impossible tasks are akin to herding cats. Which is a true statement, as anyone with even one cat can tell you. Cats, or kitty-cats if you prefer, are as independent as ... well, as cats.

Reminds me of the bumper sticker we slapped on the rear of friends (I mean, on the rear of their car) in Brookings. The sticker read, "You can always tell a Norwegian. But you can't tell him much."

Actually, "independent" is another way of speaking the truth about cats, those fur snakes, those feline sharks. Substitute "stubborn, persistent or obstinate" instead of "independent," and you'll get the idea. Cats do what they want, when they want, how they want.

They do not accept discipline. You can try to regulate them, for example when they leap onto your kitchen counter or dining room table. You can shout, clap your hands, stamp your feet, hiss or make any number of bizarre and creepy noises. A cat will react to such efforts. They might actually move away from where you don't want them. Or not. But beware. For they will get way more than even. They will retaliate for your human arrogance by shredding your furniture or clothing. Or in severe cases, you will be chastised by cat surprises in your closet.

And speaking of closets, we have this darling little terror living with us, name of *Jellirabbit*. He has a fetish for entering cabinets, closets and wardrobes. I don't care if he's asleep, eating or doing anything. If he hears a storage door opening, he's there. Immediately. I think he has the ability to teleport himself. Kind of scary. He is impossible to keep out of closets, especially one where cat food is kept.

It doesn't matter that the food in the closet is for the outside cats. He seems to prefer it over the more expensive brand we buy from our veterinarian for *Jellirabbit* and his indoor buddy, *Flint Eastwood*.

Cats also have the ability to increase the force of gravity. How else to explain the huge thump a 6-pound kitty can make when he lands on the floor after jumping off your bed, where he has slept on your pillow for the past several hours while you were working to raise money to buy his cat food?

And how can two cats sound like a herd of horses coming down your home hallway? Amazing. I mean, between them they have eight legs, but it sounds like either a runaway string of mustangs or 89 cats wearing boots.



(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.

* * *

Gold along with aggregate From Robert Perkins Cave Junction

On display in the Kerbyville Museum is a replica of a 7-pound gold nugget discovered in Althouse Creek, a tributary of Illinois River.

In the far, distant past, the mountains just south of present-day Cave Junction reached an elevation of 25,000 feet. Erosion created the present Illinois Valley.

Early day miners discovered considerable deposits of gold in all the creeks emptying into Illinois River. Suffice it to say, untold gold deposits exist adjacent to the east fork of Illinois River.

Proposed removal of aggregate will include gold. A smelter could easily separate valuable gold, which has a present-day value of \$850 per ounce, as occurred on Applegate River.

Should the proposal by Barlow/Copeland interests be approved by JoCo officials, the process must be monitored.

Public safety issue From Ward Winter Cave Junction

I thought that one of the duties of the county commissioners was to provide for the public safety. If it is, then let's get with it.

This county is fast becoming dysfunctional, and I am tired of reading in the *I.V. News* Police Blotter that a deputy could not respond.

I've hated guns since Vietnam, but I now sleep with a pistol under my pillow. It appears that if I am robbed, the sheriff will tell me to phone my insurance company.

It is time to get off the dime and quit the ridiculous in-fighting. Figure it out or give up the job to someone who can do it.

Where are baseball sponsors? From Darlene Anderson for I.V. Little League Board

I.V. Little League Board once again is soliciting for 14 baseball team sponsors and additional sponsors to help with the program. This year, the board has chosen to allow sponsors specific to equipment and activities (see our ad elsewhere in this issue).

With various levels of sponsorship available, it is the board's hope that more people will be willing and able to donate to the league in support of the Little League Baseball program.

Last year's program supported the play of 170+ junior athletes in Illinois Valley, culminating with a State Championship title for the Illinois Valley Senior Division. This program provides positive enforcement of team play, social interaction, and encourages competition with fair play.



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Letters to the Editor

Our program also gives the youth of the valley an outlet for their energies that may otherwise be detrimental in the community.

All donations of sponsorship are used for Illinois Valley youth and help to continue the program each year. Community members have been wonderful to us in the past, and we are hoping that they will be even more generous this year.

We hope that people will check the sponsorship advertisement and send in what they can afford to help us continue keeping youth involved in positive activities.

OHV plan criticized From Mark Brockman Selma

I am a retired sheet metal worker. I live on a fixed income. The land I own is my largest asset.

BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revisions lays out two Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Emphasis Areas that threaten my investment. The Elliot Creek OHV Emphasis Area is practically in my backyard, and, from a noise point of view, it is. That's also true of the Illinois Valley OHV Emphasis Area.

I know that its noise will travel to me and my neighbors because we can hear the remote-controlled airplane events held at Lake Selmac, and dirt bikes are a damned sight louder. If the OHV Emphasis Areas are established, every day could be noisy.

Property prices drop when a neighborhood is consistently noisy. I don't like my "quality of life" to be lowered, and I don't like my savings to be stolen.

The Executive Order signed by President Nixon in 1972 says off-road vehicles on public lands "shall be located ... to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors." This is law. BLM should obey it and keep OHV Emphasis Areas away from people's homes.

I bet others wouldn't want people biking through their back yard either; probably for the same reasons.

Signs not IVMA matter From F. John 'Frank' Abernathy, president/CEO Illinois Valley Merchants Association Cave Junction

This is in response to your Dec. 26 letter to the editor from Linda Corey-Woodward. Her letter stated that "... Illinois Valley Merchants Association ... should move forward now ..." re-

garding the "Welcome to the Illinois Valley" signs.

The published letter also stated that, "Those interested can contact the chamber and IVMA, and have a planning meeting."

I want to make it clear that Illinois Valley Merchants Association (IVMA) does not involve itself in the "Welcome to Illinois Valley" signs, or promotion of tourism in Illinois Valley. The signs are a function of the I.V. Chamber of Commerce, and not IVMA.

Comments or questions concerning the signs should be directed to the chamber (592-3326), and not IVMA.

IVMA strives to provide benefits for a wide variety of merchant and nonmerchant members of Illinois Valley. Its tasks include collaborative advertising and sponsorship, securing business for I.V. merchants, and protecting merchants from the effects of crime.

Also, holding community forums on business issues, establishing community partnerships, and providing technical mentoring experiences.

Ready for 747s? From Ed Russell Cave Junction

The reality of 747s down Main Street is not far out for our airport and our future.

Illinois Valley Airport was built for smoke jumper planes and possible use as a military runway if we were invaded during World War II. The runway is long and sound.

Most don't know that the "Airport Master Plan" already dictates the relocation of Airport Drive and would buy all the property north of the airport for some distance. A simple extension of the runway would take similar form.

In this New "20 Year Plan," without oversight and community input, who knows

what "Eminent Domain" may accomplish for the sake of some, legitimately questionable, commercial venture.

Ever since the "Industrial Park" was established, the airport, is, could, or shall be, some kind of "International Trade Zone." The cargo aircraft large enough to carry a "pay load" and cross our borders, and/or to fly to Asia, are very large, very loud aircraft.

(Be careful what you ask for.)

The encouragement for an industrial theme for this airport is inappropriate. We are just located in the wrong place in the transportation matrix. We are surrounded by an irreplaceable natural asset which provides value to property and our lifestyles; it won't provide any benefit to reasonable or successful enterprise, and will cost too much in any terms anyone wants to discuss.

Plus, we have to give up the "Greater Economic Potential" of a beautiful, relatively mundane, naturally evolving, local resource that is symbolic of, and symbiotic with this community.

This is a rural airport that serves our needs, and is its own/our own, unique destination attraction/money maker.

It doesn't make sense to give up our historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base, the camping, the community space, and our airspace overhead, just to profit a very few, and, maybe, hopefully, temporarily, get a handful of unskilled unsustainable jobs while destroying more of the valuable character of this community.

The fact is that this will be at the expense of lots of well-paying, "homegrown," high-tech aviation jobs in the smaller aircraft and hospitality industries that are currently evolving at the airport. These are in harmony with

(Continued on page 3)

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Cloudy, cold with freezing rain, snow late High-44 Low-32



Thursday, Jan. 10

Rain throughout the day and evening High-44 Low-33



Friday, Jan. 11

Clouds with a peek of sun High-46 Low-29



Saturday, Jan. 12

Scattered clouds with sleet later High-45 Low-28



Sunday, Jan. 13

Mostly cloudy High-46 Low-27



Monday, Jan. 14

Some clouds and warmer High-45 Low-41



Tuesday, Jan. 15

Mostly clouds and overcast High-51 Low-37



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

*Fri., Dec. 28: 41 - 39 0.39
*Sat., Dec. 29: 49 - 39 0.20
*Sun., Dec. 30: 41 - 29 0.05
*Mon., Dec. 31: 39 - 27
*Tue., Jan. 1: 39 - 25
*Wed., Jan. 2: 46 - 28
*Thurs., Jan. 3: 47 - 37 1.11

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

*Fri., Dec. 28: 42 - 38 0.25
*Sat., Dec. 29: 50 - 38 0.13
*Sun., Dec. 30: 45 - 28 0.05
*Mon., Dec. 31: 42 - 27 0.01
*Tue., Jan. 1: 44 - 27
*Wed., Jan. 2: 52 - 27 0.01
*Thurs., Jan. 3: 49 - 35 0.60

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5 P.M. THURSDAYS

(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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WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Hold our elected and appointed officials accountable for their decisions.
Show your support by attending the meeting in person:

Monday, January 14 at 7 p.m.
Cave Junction County Building

This meeting will cover aggregate mining at the Holland Loop/Fort Briggs aggregate mining site (now known as I.V. Ranch) by Barlow/Copeland

No MORE BENDING RULES
FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS!

This ad has been paid for by Paid for by STRIVE - Save The Rural Illinois Valley Environment.