

Bob's Corner

OK, I admit it: During my vehicular wanderings, certain law enforcement officers felt that I had violated some driving-type law or other, and cited me. But not for good behavior. You know; they gave me a ticket. And not to get into a movie theater or concert hall.

So I've paid some fines, even though some of the accusations were (I felt) not warranted. I'll give you two examples. One occurred around 7:30 a.m. on a quiet residential street near Logan Heights in San Diego. I was giving a friend a ride to high school, and I pulled over in front of his house. Unfortunately, a San Diego Police Dept. officer saw me; and pulled me over. He issued a citation for "driving on the wrong side of the road." Yes, I had driven onto the "opposing lane," but officer there's no traffic and ...

Several years ago on Hwy. 199 in California at what the truckers call the "20-20" curve, my left-front tire inadvertently touched the double-yellow line. A California Highway Patrol officer yanked me over, and issued a citation for "crossing the double line." Argh ...

OK, one more example. It was around 1:30 a.m. on Hwy. 94 in San Diego County many years ago. A clear night, no traffic, four lanes wide open. An officer from SDDP halted my progress and wrote me for driving 70 mph in a 65 zone. Argh again ... All technically correct citations, but, I feel, with extenuating circumstances. Paid the fines anyway.

What brought this topic to mind are the fairly frequent traffic stops on I-5 by Oregon State Police troopers, when illicit substances are found. A recent one near Salem resulted in the confiscation of nearly 66 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$600,000. The driver, a 26-year-old Washington state man, was stopped for speeding and lane-change violations. And that's usually the case in these cases: traffic stops resulting in officers finding marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine or other preposterous items.

Wouldn't you think that if you were hauling such stuff that you'd observe all the highway rules? Wouldn't you be careful to not attract attention by speeding and otherwise driving so that people in cars with flashing lights and sirens would leave you alone?


Apparently not. To quote a old expression: That's why they call it dope.




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Illinois Valley News

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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.

Seeks Raffenburg apology From Larry Herman Cave Junction

Commissioner Jim Raffenburg stated, "Our codes set a very high bar for home occupation in order to ensure residential neighborhoods remain just that."

He set the bar so low on the mining project, on Rockydale Road, at the old Martin Dairy, (Little Elm Ranch), an agriculturally zoned area that only a gopher could dig under it, and did (Barlow Rock).

Raffenburg owes this neighborhood a swift apology by enforcing the codes that proclaim a residential neighborhood remain a residential neighborhood, and by denying a conditional-use permit to Barlow Rock at Little Elm Ranch.

He has violated the public trust he was elected to uphold; polluted the surrounding area with mining debris and injured the health, physically and mentally, of those living in the immediate area. He is driving people from their homes.

The county isn't in compliance with statewide planning goals or the acknowledged comprehensive plan. So he should do the right thing. The permit shouldn't have been issued in the first place. End the pain, refuse the permit on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 10:30 a.m. at the county commission meeting at the courthouse in Grants Pass.

I.V. Library supporter From Denise Blazeovich Eugene

Recently, my second-grader came home from school, and told me, "Mom,

you are a bibliophile." After she told me what that means, I felt so pleased to have her recognize me as such.

For those who want to learn a new word from a 7-year-old, here is the definition -- *Webster's Dictionary*: Bibliophile. Noun. 1. Someone who loves (and usually collects) books.

My daughter applied this title to me because she sees me reading every day. In our house, everyone knows that the minute I put our 3-year-old down for her nap, the next thing I do is take a short, quiet time with a book. On weekends, it's a family affair; we each do something quiet for a while. This routine started because of my need to read.

I became the book addict that I am today during the summer I was 13. I remember trips into town with Mom and my brothers, trips which usually included a stop at the library. I'd go straight into the children's room, and directly to the chapter book section. There I discovered many authors and titles, which I have since forgotten.

But what I'll never forget are the joys and simple pleasures that I got from that seemingly infinite supply of books. I was inspired to challenge myself to a reading marathon.

I remember the satisfaction and the sense of accomplishment I felt, having read 32 chapter books by the end of that summer.

Even though I spent some years being a wayward teen-ager and young adult, eventually I rediscovered my love for reading. A seed had been planted (by my own bibliophile mother), and every day my life is enriched by the books that I enjoy.

And I feel proud of how much progress our oldest daughter is making in her reading skills. We enjoy visiting our library here in Eugene; not only for the books, movies, magazines and CDs that we borrow, but also for the pleasure of the calm atmosphere. Our girls like to spend time at the coloring table, play with the dollhouse, or just interact with other little kids.

I am writing to appeal to whomever it is who has the power to reopen the Illinois Valley Public Library. I believe that it is of great impor-

tance in any community for children and adults to have access to a library; especially to a small town like Cave Junction, where there is less opportunity, and fewer activities for kids.

In this age of MySpace and digital cable and text messaging, do we really want to deprive kids of the essential, simple pleasure of library books? A way must be found to help support the library in Cave Junction. Come to think of it, I'd like to take my own kids there one day soon.

Timber payment options From Dexter Babcock Cave Junction

I have written state Sen. Rick Metsger (D-Mt. Hood) about his inquiries through Oregon State Attorney General Hardy Myers regarding our legal options as the state to enforce payments by the federal government for timber based on a number of outstanding agreements.

I have advised Metsger that the amounts the federal government is not paying are quite significant to the stability of local governments and livelihood and personal safety of many people in the affected counties in Oregon. This issue has multiple effects, as the bulk of these agreements are for lands not in production to benefit citizens in Oregon.

With the combination of payments not being received and the large amount of land out of production, the county governments are forced to make severe cutbacks on essential public services. Or they have a continual cycle of requesting additional funds from citizens who do not have the resources to supply these additional funds in lieu

of the federal government's responsibilities.

I advised the senator that I would be very supportive of what legal actions he can follow to have the federal government follow through on its obligations. Should these options be exhausted, I would support the state taking steps to return timber lands that the federal government no longer considers under its responsibility back to private hands for production.

Taxes can be generated from production from these lands once again.

I have phoned Metsger's office plus the office of the state attorney general, and federal representatives to voice my positive vote of a support as a citizen and voter of Oregon in these matters.

'Tourist Trail' cited From Sue Lily Cave Junction

Our county commissioners are being paid to manage Josephine County to the best advantage of its lands and people.

Therefore, I cannot understand Commissioner Jim Raffenburg's decision to disband the Illinois Valley volunteer airport advisory board and disregard its thoughtful and thorough plans for the airport and the financial future of Illinois Valley, especially the Smokejumper Museum and Moon Tree Celebration.

Instead, he's choosing to fence the airport, remove historic buildings, parking and trees to provide for big planes to fly into our quiet valley, the deafening sounds of which would destroy the peaceful lifestyle of everyone.

(Continued on page 3)

Helping Hands Day Care

Limited openings for all ages
 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Mondays-Fridays



Now accepting DHS Day Care Assistance
 Contact Cindy at 592-4923
 or Helpinghandsdaycare@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE ILLINOIS VALLEY RESIDENTS

To serve your hearing needs better, we have set aside one day per month at our Grants Pass Office for your exclusive use. There, we can provide better equipment for testing and more complete staffing for consultation.

The first date will be Monday, February 4 at 1647 Williams Hwy., 474-6567.

Our service center at 315A Caves Hwy., in the former Cave Junction Medical Center, will remain open for your convenience. Call today for all your hearing needs, 474-6567.

Grants Pass Hearing Aid Center

**1647 Williams Hwy.
 Grants Pass, Oregon
 474-6567**

Weather Watch Cave Junction

Wednesday, Jan. 30
 Cloudy, chilly with chance for snow
 High--40 Low--32



Thursday, Jan. 31
 Windy and cloudy, with snow possible
 High--42 Low--30



Friday, Feb. 1
 Thick cloud cover
 High--42 Low--29



Saturday, Feb. 2
 Breezy, chilly, rainy
 High--42 Low--25



Sunday, Feb. 3
 Plenty of clouds with rain showers
 High--40 Low--28



Monday, Feb. 4
 Mix of snow and rain
 High--49 Low--27



Tuesday, Feb. 5
 Rain
 High--49 Low--27



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

*Fri.,	Jan. 18	44	26
*Sat.,	Jan. 19	46	23
*Sun.,	Jan. 20	44	35 .06
*Mon.,	Jan. 21	41	28
*Tue.,	Jan. 22	43	21
*Wed.,	Jan. 23	42	23
*Thurs.,	Jan. 24	38	23 .03

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

*Fri.,	Jan. 18	49	24 .01
*Sat.,	Jan. 19	51	25
*Sun.,	Jan. 20	44	35 .37
*Mon.,	Jan. 21	43	29
*Tue.,	Jan. 22	46	24
*Wed.,	Jan. 23	47	20 .01
*Thurs.,	Jan. 24	39	21 .02