

Bob's Corner

What you do not want to hear during surgery:
*Well, ladies and gentlemen, this will be an experience for all of us.
*Oops! Hey, has anyone ever survived getting 500 ml of this stuff before?
*Nurse, did this patient sign an organ donor card?
*Ya' know, there's big money in kidneys, and this guy has two of 'em.
*Wait a minute. If this is his spleen, then what's that?
*Oh, no! I just lost my Rolex in there.
*Dang! There go the lights and power again.
*Nuts ... when this procedure came up in med school I was recovering from a hangover.
*Hey, what's this doing here?
*That's cool! Now can you make his legs twitch?
*Bo-Bo, come back with that. Bad dog!
*Humm ... is that supposed to be leaking?
*Sterile/schmerl, the floor's clean, right?
*What do you mean, he wasn't in for a sex change?
*OK, now take a photo from this angle. This is truly a freak of Nature.
*This patient has already had some kids ... Am I right?
Wait, it's a man ...
*Don't worry, I'm sure it's sharp enough.
*Better save that. We'll need it for the autopsy.
*Isn't this the guy with the lousy insurance?
(Bob's Full Disclosure: The preceding is modified from an Internet item).



Spring Fling

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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, April 2
Cloudy
High--62 Low--28

Thursday, April 3
Cloudy with sunshine
High--65 Low--32

Friday, April 4
Clouds and sun
High--66 Low--33

Saturday, April 5
Sunny and pleasant
High--68 Low--33

Sunday, April 6
Cloudy
High--64 Low--35

Monday, April 7
Cloudy with sunshine
High--62 Low--39

Tuesday, April 8
Sunny and breezy
High--70 Low--39

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

*Fri.,	Mar. 21	57	33	.14
*Sat.,	Mar. 22	67	29	.00
*Sun.,	Mar. 23	58	39	.22
*Mon.,	Mar. 24	54	42	.21
*Tue.,	Mar. 25	55	33	.00
*Wed.,	Mar. 26	43	33	1.06
*Thurs.,	Mar. 27	54	28	.14

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

*Fri.,	Mar. 21	55	32	.04
*Sat.,	Mar. 22	67	28	.00
*Sun.,	Mar. 23	58	33	.14
*Mon.,	Mar. 24	56	38	.16
*Tue.,	Mar. 25	56	28	.01
*Wed.,	Mar. 26	46	31	.69
*Thurs.,	Mar. 27	52	27	.01

illinois-valley-news.com

Editorial

Rebutting allegations against a public official by another newspaper is tricky business; not an area I'm real comfortable with. But I have become embroiled in the situation and will do the best I can in what I believe to be the most-appropriate way to address the situation.

Briefly: The Grants Pass *Daily Courier* on March 22 ran a page 1 article culminating what it explained was a two-month investigation into Josephine County Commissioner Jim Raffenburg's background because of his election claims and other statements, and a recent comment that because of his management experience he felt qualified to help manage county business.

The daily newspaper article indicated that it undertook an investigation into Raffenburg's statements because of debate about hiring a county manager and Raffenburg stating that he is comfortable as a commissioner doing just that, because he has the necessary management background.

For full disclosure, I should state here that this newspaper had the opportunity to pursue the same story line some weeks back because of being led to it by a county official. We chose to not go after that story. It is not in our nature to chase such angles unless it directly affects a public official's actual job performance. Who rates the job performance of our county commissioners? Could it be the public as a whole, and not a handful of those whom Raffenburg refers to as a "cabal?"

I could go on for many more inches here about the findings listed by the *Daily Courier*. Let it suffice to say that in a meeting last week with Carl Wilson, CFO at Radio KAJO and KLTR, and News Director Scott Jorgensen, Raffenburg provided copies of various certificates and the like that show he told the truth in his statements, including earning a Master Gardener certificate. Was he a Tai Kwon Do instructor? Apparently not, but he did receive a brown belt certificate. Did he claim to be an instructor? The *Courier* story says he did. He could have instructed others after his training.

It seems that there could be a matter of interpretation in some cases, as to what certain job titles meant and what the job management responsibilities were. Did he serve in the U.S. Army? He has a copy of an Honorable Discharge, and on Monday, March 31 supplied a copy of his DD-214 discharge paper. As for some other records from approximately 25 years ago not being available from agencies and former employers, as noted by the *Courier*, I have to say, does it matter now?

But if his claims figured in his being elected, that's another situation. And are any discrepancies affecting his current job performance? It appears not, although the *Courier* ran its third page 1 lead story in a week about Raffenburg on March 29 citing his absence from meetings.

It doesn't surprise me that LAPD has no record of his being a cadet as a 19-year-old in 1974. That was some 33 years ago; it's unlikely that such records would be retained.

Besides the *Courier*, a red flag was raised last week to us by Michael Schneyder, county assessor. He phoned our office to state that "nothing makes sense" regarding Raffenburg's documents. "What is true and what's not true?" he asked. He also sent us some copies of documents to make his points.

We are puzzled about what appears to be an orchestrated, behind-the-scenes attempt to discredit Raffenburg. For what reason? He isn't planning to seek re-election; but he has made two trips to Washington, D.C. to seek secure funding for the county. Is there some action planned that his opponents feel he would be against, causing the current effort to darken his reputation?

Regarding the March 22 story, *Courier* Editor Dennis Roler told us last week that, based on its investigative reporting, the newspaper stands by its story, and we admire that from a journalistic perspective. He noted that the *Courier* doesn't want Raffenburg "to snow anybody" and that offers to the *Courier* to provide data to refute the paper's reporting have been ignored by Raffenburg.

From his viewpoint, the commissioner said that the *Courier* tried to ambush him with distortions, and that he feels it has had the data previously, but chose to ignore it.

We wonder why the commissioner's previous relationship with the Foundation of Human Understanding was brought up in the first exposé. It does not seem germane.

It is true that Raffenburg has made some errors in reporting his birth date; he has admitted to us that it was "a stupid mistake." He did change his name to Von Raffenburg, his great-grandmother's name, because his father, whose last name was Terry, abandoned him and his mother. That is his right, and again, does it matter? OK, one could say that if he "lied" about that -- although it seems unclear how that fact even came up -- then he could be doing the same in his work as a commissioner. We don't think so.

Why are some working so hard to discredit Raffenburg? That remains to be seen. Perhaps those directing the campaign will themselves be uncovered when the rumors and rumblings of recalling Raffenburg come fully into the light. Regarding his absence from some meetings, and his request for back pay, Commissioner Dave Toler is quoted in the *Courier* March 29 article as saying, "The question is, what do the citizens in this county want to do about this?" We would much prefer to not see a recall effort. They are messy, expensive affairs that cause major polarization. Our county needs to avoid that situation.

As the *Courier* article concluded, quoting a friend of Raffenburg, "My father used to say, 'Don't look at what the person said. Look at what they do.'"

-Bob Rodriguez



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Embattled commissioner volleys back at charges

(Editor's Note: Following is a rebuttal response by Josephine County Commissioner Jim Raffenburg submitted to the Grants Pass *Daily Courier* on Monday, March 31)

I hereby request that you print (no later than April 5, 2008, without any changes) the following 956 word rebuttal "Guest Opinion" to the false claims regarding my background, printed in the *Daily Courier*, as front page articles and in your editorials, since March 22, 2008.

On March 27 and 30, 2008 I provided overwhelming documentation of my background (including my U.S. Army Honorable Discharge DD-214) to Carl Wilson of KAJO/KLTR Radio and Bob Rodriguez, editor of the *Illinois Valley News*.

I will not provide any further documentation to the *Daily Courier*. This paper is not interested in the truth, only political agendas.

For example, let's compare the *Daily Courier's* false claims with documented facts:

Dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Army?
I was injured on active duty and was Honorably Discharged on Jan. 16, 1973.
Not a qualified reserve deputy sheriff?
I was thoroughly qualified under the Josephine County Sheriff's Office standards in effect at the time of my appointment. Regarding the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, I was a 19-year-old cadet for a short time. Apparently they do not keep cadet records that old.

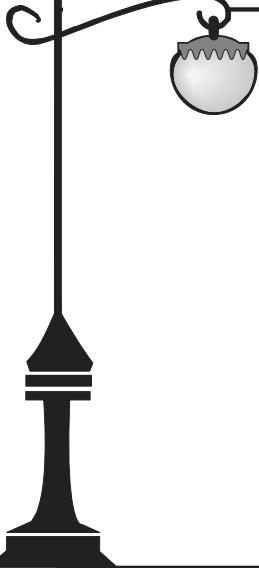
My name change was to "hide" past "affiliations"?
My name change was done openly, in accordance with Oregon law. My family history is interesting, but irrelevant.
My 1992 Voter Registration Card was incorrect?
My birth date is Jan. 3, 1955, not 1953 -- it was obviously a transposition error. Regarding my parents' names, upon reflection, I remember being told the information was needed only as a "password" to verify my identity when I voted.
Using "Without Prejudice" under "UCC 1-207" is a "mystery"?
How can reserving one's rights under the U.S. Constitution be seen as a negative by anyone who supports the Constitution as the vital security of our freedoms?
NASA experience not as claimed?
This issue was investigated and settled in my favor by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office on Feb. 15, 2005. My NASA employment job titles were "Construction Administrator" and "Construction Field Manager."

NASA Construction Administrators and Construction Field Managers were all-encompassing manager/inspector positions with the following responsibilities spelled out in my job description, "As Field Manager for NASA construction projects, you are responsible for reviewing construction contractors work for progress and compliance with contract documents and furthermore to interpret the documents and issue field orders as required to direct contractors ..."

On May 23, 1988, NASA Engineer Tim Gafney, quoted in your article, wrote a Letter of Commendation regarding my work, noting my Manager job title. Gafney wrote, "I would like at this time to commend (Jim's work) as Field Inspector/Manager for this project ... Construction of the HPASF (High Pressure Air Storage Facility) went so smoothly, in large part due to Jim's work ..."

Gafney was the overall NASA Project Engineer/Manager for this job and was rarely seen in the field. His 20-year-old memory would seem to conflict with my written documentation from his own hand.

(Continued on page 8)



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Recycle Round-Up

(Can Slam)

Saturday, April 12
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. I.V. Visitor Center

- * **TIN CANS & ALUMINUM:** *Labels ok*
- * **NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES**
- * **CARDBOARD & PAPERBOARD**
Cereal-type boxes, fiber egg cartons, shoe boxes, 6 or 12 pack cartons, cardboard tubes
Remove waxed or foil-lining
- * **PLASTIC BOTTLES** #'s 1-7: *Neck smaller than base.*
NO tubs, NO lids, NO motor oil or antifreeze containers. NO buckets, NO furniture
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