

Bob's Corner

I was trying to find a telephone number the other day; one that's in my Private File. Actually, I have three such archives, and they're all within easy reach. Unfortunately, two of them are ... um ... well, perhaps not the best organized. So they're easily reached, but difficult to deal with.

That reminds me of my late Dad, who kept a tattered personal directory at the phone desk next to the dining room table. The directory contained names, addresses, telephone numbers, birthdates and a bunch of private data such as bank account numbers. It was a fine collection. But he had given up on alphabetizing, so you generally were faced with looking through the entire register to locate whatever you were looking for. Quite a pastime.

As for my data banks: I have a Rolodex, the kind with a moving indicator, which you place on the appropriate first or last letter of the person or business for which you want a number; then you push on a lever-like device at the bottom, and the thing flips open. The problem: The thing was made in China, and it's a piece of #!%. I remember when Rolodex put out a fine product, but no longer.

I use the contraption, but it doesn't work well. So I also have an amazing stack of odd-shaped hunks of paper on which are jotted various eddresses, addresses and telephone numbers. OK, so they're kind of jumbled there on my desk, but I can (usually) find what I'm looking for. -- in about a minute or three by searching through the mess ... er ... I mean, the collection.

My third method of saving telephone numbers is to pencil them on a sheet of paper pinned to my bulletin board. Only thing, I've jotted so many numbers at so many angles that it's like trying to read the "ads" that people place on bulletin boards around town. It's a mess.

I've memorized a lot of telephone numbers, but there are times when I need to look up some digits. And I've got three sources, all within easy reach. But not within easy finding. Hey, it's my own pastime. Like father/like son?

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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
Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net or newsdesk@illinois-valley-news.com
Volume 71, No. 9
Staff: Michelle Binker, Zina Bandy, Brenda Encinas, Millie Watkins, and South Gladish
Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

DEADLINES:
News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters
5 P.M. THURSDAYS
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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.
* * *

Helping firefighters / 17-20
From Joel F. Downing, Senior Master Sgt., U.S. Air Force (Ret.) Cave Junction

The volunteers of this valley have served us well during the years, but the number of volunteers is slowly diminishing, and new volunteers are becoming hard to recruit.

The industry in the valley is not growing as fast as the population. And the new population that is taking up residence appears to be mainly those coming to retire.

A viable firefighter needs to be physically fit and able to withstand the stress of the job. As the population in the valley grows, the young and fit frequently leave to find work in other cities. We have a group of very dedicated volunteer and paid firefighters who need the help and support of the community.

In order to provide the fire and emergency protection that the homes in this valley require, we need to hire additional firefighters. These individuals will then become residents of our community and add strength to the life of this valley.

The Illinois Valley Fire District is requesting the voters in the valley to support a five-year levy to increase the fire-fighting capability of the district. This levy will allow the district to hire additional full-time firefighters that will be on duty 24 hours a day. These additional personnel will reduce the response time for emergency and fire related situations.

A reduced response time also can improve home owners insurance rates by altering the insurance rating for emergency and fire response. The district has the facilities and equipment, but lacks the manpower to provide a more immediate response. The present force is provided by four paid staff members and supplemented by a volunteer contingent.

Although this levy would increase property taxes it can also reduce the amount a home owner would be required to pay in home owner insurance premiums.

The brave and underpaid personnel of our fire district

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THURSDAY, MAY 15
Brunch for lunch, ham & cheese sandwich, popcorn chicken, Italian griller, chicken salad wrap, garden or chef salad.
FRIDAY, MAY 16
Fruit & yogurt parfait, turkey & cheese sandwich, hamburger, sausage or veggie pizza, P.B. & banana wrap, garden or Cobb salad.
MONDAY, MAY 19
Tasty corn dog, super sub sandwich, hamburger, pepperoni or veggie pizza, clever club, garden salad.
TUESDAY, MAY 20
Totally teriyaki dippers, turkey & cheese sandwich, chicken nuggets, crisped cheese sandwich, crispy chicken wrap, garden or chef salad.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21
Chicken soft taco, tuna torpedo sandwich, cheesy burger, Hawaiian or veggie pizza, it's Italian wrap, popcorn chicken salad.

are required to absorb the brunt of the strenuous and demanding tasks of providing continuous and vigilant response to emergencies that occur in the valley daily. We as residents of this community cannot stand by and remain ignorant to the plight of the paid staff and volunteer firefighters who are providing protection within the fire district.

Residents and voters in Illinois Valley need to stand up and recognize that the volunteer and paid firefighters cannot stand alone and do require the support of the voters of Illinois Valley through approval of Measure 17-20.

About Jim Raffenburg From Steve Lyons Cave Junction

It is interesting and disappointing to read the letters to the editor regarding Jim Raffenburg, after the political assassination by the Daily Slurier. I have read that rag six days a week for 17 years and have seen the same thing pulled on others, creating news instead of reporting it.

Those who believe everything they read or see in and on the news are idiots. Weeks ago, I accompanied Jim to the *Courier*, where he delivered documents disproving its article and respectfully requested to do a guest editorial.

He changed his name -- so what? He was in the service and has his DD-214, time served is immaterial. He has his Master Gardener Certificate, trade school certificate, Tae Kwan Do certificate, etc. The Daily Discourager prints what I call libel on page 1, but if it corrects or retracts, its on page 9.

Kudos to the *Illinois Valley News*, *U.S. Observer*, and KAJO Radio and Carl Wilson for giving Jim a forum to tell his side of the story. And shame on Dave Toler and Dwight Ellis for discontinuing the weekly show.

Jim Raffenburg has represented my views as a Conservative and is my (and many others) anti-Toler.

How about some exposés on the reporters, editors and recall petitioners in Grants Pass who tried to smear Sheriff Gilbertson? I wonder if they could stand the scrutiny.

In Kevin Widdison's April 28 piece in the *Courier*, he picks Mackin, Iverson, Albright and Makepeace and dismisses the rest. All his picks are pro-tax and county managers. Does the *Courier* have an agenda?

Iverson and Makepeace

would not answer questions for the Christian Voters Guide (full of interesting information). Whoever the Slurier endorses - I will not, nor will I purchase that paper or advertise anymore. I'll be green and read my Dad's paper and use alternate advertising.

Remember, just because you see it in a newspaper or on the news doesn't mean it's so. And tell the recall petitioners to take a hike. The opinions herein are my own and not of any organization I may belong to or company I work for.

Also about Raffenburg From Ananda Floyd Cave Junction

I recently attended the I.V. Ranch land-use hearing, which spanned four meetings. I noticed Commissioner Jim Raffenburg leaving Anne G. Basker Auditorium after the regular business meeting and before the hearing began.

When I inquired as to his whereabouts during these hearings, Raffenburg admitted to "defending his name" instead of doing his job on at least one of these occasions. While I'm offended at the blatant misuse of my tax dollars by Raffenburg shirking his duties, I find what happened at the final I.V. Ranch hearing even more insidious.

Raffenburg was strongly urged by representatives of Copeland Corp. via an email to attend the final (voting) hearing. Despite claiming to represent the people, Raffenburg did not bother to do his job until corporate lawyers requested his presence. This is precisely the kind of blatant disregard for the rights and will of the people which is ruining our county.

Rather than waste another \$48,000 paying for this lack of representation until December, we can save \$28,000 with a recall election. We need a representative who will, at the very least, show up for work.

Ballot counting From James Walmsley Cave Junction

As I looked over my nominating ballot I was disturbed to see at the bottom right corner the Copyright 'Election Systems & Software Inc. 1981, 2002' (ES&S) which apparently is the software used in Josephine County to run the optical scanners that count our votes.

November 1998, Honolulu, Hawaii: A state senate investigation was conducted into the 1998 malfunction of

voting machines in seven precincts at once. ES&S acknowledged the error and paid more than \$250,000 for the recount, in which the biggest expense was hand-counting, according to Vice President Todd Urosevich.

After more than six years of problems with electronic voting machines, the Government Accountability Office conducted a study of electronic voting machine problems. In summary, on page two of this 107-page report critical of electronic voting equipment, it states that "... cast ballots, ballot definition files, and audit logs could be modified..."

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed to provide better access for disabled voters. In Oregon we vote at home, so this is a non-starter. The act also was authorized to provide funds to upgrade antiquated election systems. I am not sure what is antiquated about hand-counting ballots. Accuracy over speed is paramount. I'm also not convinced that HAVA is a mandate as told to me by at least one election official.

The only constitutional power the federal government has over state elections is to set the date for the general election. This is my opinion, and if any election official can show me where I am wrong under penalties of perjury, I will stand corrected.

This presidential vote is the most important vote to date, if we are to restore America to the great nation she once was.

The mortgage crisis, the high fuel and food cost, the declining value of the dollar, etc. are all fallout from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). One of the first acts by President Clinton was to sign NAFTA. It has been a monumental failure, and needs to be repealed. He also signed legislation removing the Glass / Steagall Act, which allowed banks to enter the speculative derivatives market and hedge funds, all high risk.

We now see fallout from that. The three front runners for president are all in favor of NAFTA, open borders, higher taxes, and have no comprehensive solution to the energy crisis.

I am fed up with the finger pointing between congress and this administration. To put a true American in the White House, I'm voting for Ron Paul.

(Continued on page 3)

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- John Harelson, Josephine County Treasurer

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- Dennis Richardson, Oregon House of Representatives

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- Jason A. Atkinson, Oregon State Senator

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