

Bob's Corner

We enjoyed a recent business trip to Bend, especially because the editor, former young trucker that he was, got to drive a rented Ford E150. Yeah, we had to pick up our 2008-09 *Valley Visitor* covers in White City, take them to the Bend *Bulletin* and then pick up the finished product. Last year we used our own vehicle, but it was overloaded.

The cargo van was more comfortable than I thought it would be. And it had a 225 hp 4.6-liter engine plus plenty of cargo

space. Actually it was more comfortable than the two-axle bobtail refrigerated truck I drove Way Back When. Or the 2.5-ton delivery truck.

Anyway, we had an enjoyable time in Bend. I always like the aroma of the Ponderosa Pine trees that abound in the area. We happened to hit the city during the annual PPP event. I made up several definitions before learning that the letters stand for Pole Peddle Paddle. Contestants have to ski, ride a bicycle and navigate the Deschutes River in kayaks for fun and fame.

Jan and I went to Central Oregon Community College in Bend for a

Native American event. We got a free salmon lunch, and looked at the two booths in the upstairs gym. One had handmade flutes; the other handmade jewelry. And it was fun watching three youngsters "playing basketball." There were two girls about 10 and 12; and a boy, about 5. He caught the ball with his face several times.

Many memories were stirred for both of us when we visited the Deschutes Historical Museum. It's the former Reid School, operated from 1914 to 1977. It still feels like an elementary school though, and we got a kick out of the old classrooms, wooden floors, the stairwell, the windows, the doors. I mean, this place reeks of nostalgia. Plenty of neat displays about the area history too.

Besides a bit of shopping, our major event was to visit the High Desert Museum. The building is made of lava rock and pine wood. It's dedicated to broadening the understanding of the high desert's wildlife, culture, art and natural resources. We took the behind-the-scenes tour, and it was quite interesting.

One cool deal involves paintings by some of the critters who live at the museum. The staff put down large sheets of paper and some paint (I'm hazy on the details), and the creatures leave their creative marks.

There also are lots of what guys call "neat" displays. They include an 1860s Concord stagecoach, a 1935 fully restored Chevrolet fire truck used by the U.S. Forest Service, and a couple of full-size teepees, one inside and one outside. There are a number of other items on the grounds too, including bronze-type statuary, and a settler's cabin.

Oh yeah, there also are a goodly number of high desert denizens in various enclosures. Plus dioramas. Birds, lizards, turtles, snakes, cats and stuff like that. They were fun to view also.

Bend is a nice place to visit. But we call Cave Junction and Illinois Valley our home. We have our own critters to view here.



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. Handwritten letters that are double-spaced and legible also can be considered. "Thank you" submissions are not accepted as letters.

'An honor and privilege' From Georgette Brown Grants Pass

I am officially retiring from the office of Josephine County Clerk and Recorder on June 30, 2008. It has been an honor and privilege serving the people of Josephine County for the past 25 years.

During this time, with the assistance of dedicated deputy clerks, I have brought the election process from hand-counting to punch cards and then in 1991 to the first version of optical scan ballots. And are now on the third generation of this system.

We have gone from polling place elections to vote-by-mail for special elections, and now vote-by-mail for all elections. Plus, election results now can be viewed on our Website. We have been publishing a county *Voters' Pamphlet* since March 1993.

We've handled candidate filings, annexations, special districts, a number of charter amendments through the initiative process, recalls, voter referrals and redistricting.

In recording land records and liens, etc. we have gone from dating documents by hand and typing reception ledgers, then computer indexing on the "mainframe," to our current state-of-the-art, fully automated Helion Recording system. On it, documents are receipted, scanned and forwarded to title companies via FTP.

The next step, which I have been looking into, will be recording documents via the Internet, but this will occur in Josephine County after my retirement.

One of my most pleasant tasks through the years has been performing marriages and seeing happy couples united in matrimony.

I will be spending time on personal projects and with my new little grandson, but I will always retain fond memories of my years as your Josephine county clerk.

Gambling view From Jim Lombardo O'Brien

The front page read Big Brown: Big Brown it was by six lengths. The day before, the front page read, go to Seven Feathers and make some real money.

Past statistics show that



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less than 3 percent of the people who take money to Las Vegas, Reno or Seven Feathers come back with more than they take to those places. Seven Feathers is good for the economy of the people who own or work there. That is all.

I saw a documentary on Las Vegas starting from 1900. Sand as far as you could see. Not a drop of water or a blade of grass. Then came the mob. They got the land for next to nothing. Sucked the water from hundreds of miles away. Got some palm trees from California and Arizona.

And now you have millions of people in campers. The line starts from 10 miles before you get there, parked on both sides of the road, hauling in money to leave behind.

I would like to hear the results of the guy who was going to take his tax refund to Seven Feathers.

We, the People From Mayor Tony Paulson City of Cave Junction

In a letter in the Grants Pass *Daily Courier* (June 3) and the *Illinois Valley News* (June 4), was the question, "How safe is Cave Junction?" It was posed by Merlin resident Holger Sommer.

My question in response is, "In comparison to where?" We have many new settlers from places including Los Angeles, Sacramento and Portland. When I ask these folks how they like their new home, many answer with smiles and explain where they have come from, the crime was much more violent.

I am from the Sacramento area, and I can say since we have moved here, I have not seen any rival gangs in car chases shooting at each other. We have very petty problems in comparison to Grants Pass or Medford. I love this valley, even with our

problems.

As for what Sommer writes as truth, let's see. As for urban services and facilities, this in context to the state definition in the Statewide Planning Goals, written for comprehensive plans. The word "mandatory" that Sommer uses, is his word, not the state's. Here is the exact wording from the state:

"Urban Facilities and Services - refers to key facilities and to appropriate types and levels of, at least, the following: police protection; sanitary facilities; storm drainage facilities; planning; zoning and subdivision control; health services; recreation facilities and services; energy and communication services; and community governmental services." The true requirement reads quite differently than Sommer's version.

I am offended by Sommer's misdirection of truth in Tom Green's murder. The truth is that Tom was truly a humanitarian. Because he was such, after the first assault on him earlier in the week, Tom decided to not press charges. He believed in the young man so much, that he was able to forgive him.

We all have participated in heated discussions about the city's lack of local law enforcement. During the past two opportunities, those who would vote to support law enforcement were overruled by those who would not financially support law enforcement. Ultimately, our system of business requires monetary compensation for services rendered. Therefore, it stands to reason that the voice of the majority believe our current services are adequate.

The stable operation of a city police department would require more than \$500,000 per year, and that would not provide patrol 24 hours per day. To fund a viable city department, the city needs a population base in excess of

3,000 with the associated property value, to bring the per capita cost to a reasonable level. To reach that population, the city needs development. If development stops, there is no potential of ever going forward.

I may personally agree with Sommer that these latest voting outcomes were not in the best interests of Cave Junction, but his work to misdirect the people and place blame on the city of Cave Junction, as if the council specifically chose not to have law enforcement, is wrong.

After brief discussion with Sommer, it is my belief that "We, the People" is not sufficient in his eyes. He frequently throws around terms to include "professional," "trained," or "educated," insinuating that these terms do not apply to our voting population. Apparently "We, the People" are not built of the right stuff.

Perhaps, if it is so bad here, he should consider citizenship and registering to vote so he has his one vote like the rest of us.

Helping the helpers From Capt. Dan Gillen Josephine County Search And Rescue

Our Josephine County Search And Rescue (SAR), which started in 1967, is comprised of volunteers who donate their time and experience to conduct searches for missing and injured children, adults and senior citizens who may be lost or unable to return to their home or care facility.

Our volunteers are on stand-by for call-outs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We also participate in many public service events.

All citizen volunteers are required to attend training sessions that meet the Oregon State Sheriff's Association standards. We conduct two

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