

## Bob's Corner

As threatened last issue, here is a continuation of our recent adventures in and around the north coastal areas of San Diego County.

About that embarrassing 112 score at Surf Bowl in Oceanside: I had not bowled for a long time, and I had the sore muscles and fingers to prove it afterward. Granddaughters Natalie and Ella were invited to a birthday party at the lanes, and I got to go along with daughter Vicki, and Cave Junction granddaughter Kim, who took the trip with Jan and me. It was fun, especially for the party host, who had Surf Bowl provide the pizza and soft drinks; then got to leave without cleaning the mess.

Speaking of pizza, we went to That Pizza Place in Carlsbad, which apparently has been in the same location for 35 years. Good pizza and a great place for kids. Plenty of noise, lots of video games, TVs blaring, and no one minds.

Another outing, to help Matt & Vicki clear out their garage, involved a trip to a recycling center. Natalie and I, with Kim, took large bags of aluminum cans, glass and plastic to a Carlsbad site. The attendant got real excited when I unloaded the glass. He began shouting, "No more glass! Maybe next week!" He was kind of unstable. Anyway, we managed to not get stuck to the parking lot, which was quite sticky. Natalie collected \$4.84 for the recyclables. Then at a drug store she "really, really" wanted to buy a stuffed toy dog, as she only has 398 of them at home. I talked her out of it.

Another day, the three of us went to see the movie, *Wall-E*. We all enjoyed it, although Nat got a bit restless during the final 20 minutes or so, when the people characters begin talking. It's an entertaining film, especially because of the "cuteness" of the robots. Much of the flick has no dialogue; the story is carried by the two main robots making robot noises. As for the plot, I've seen it through the years in other movies, books and short stories: We trash and pollute the Earth; we have to do better or face the consequences. *Wall-E*, a rubbish collector and salvager, and *Eve*, a recon robot come to check the scene, make a good connection.

Vicki and her friend, Heather, are run nuts. One day they ran 7.5 miles, ending at a coffee house that used to be a train station in Encinitas. The girls and I went to pick them up as planned, because after extending themselves that much, they knew they'd want a ride. Somehow, I almost got lost on Hwy. 101, but managed to survive. Heather, by the way, is married to a guy who works for Eli Lilly & Co. Their children are named Eli and Lily. I find that interesting.

We didn't do any touristy type stuff on this trip. Instead we had fun with the fam, like taking Nat to her swimming lessons at a YMCA pool. At almost 6 years of age, she was the youngest and smallest of the kids, but she did great. Swims like a fish.

We also went to a children's dentist for an exam and X-rays for 3-year-old Ella. Afterward, we went to a self-serve yogurt store. Good idea, I think, as you get what you want, including toppings, and then pay by weight (the yogurt, not yours). After we returned to Oregon, Vicki took Ella back for some work, and the dentist "got her drunk" with a concoction so he could drill. Worked well, but she bit her tongue after she got home, and is still having a problem because of the gouge.

What else can I tell you about the trip? OK: *Charlie* the cat, formerly of Cave Junction, kept us up a lot during our second night. He was glad to see us again, and enjoyed checking us out in bed. Several times. He likes Matt & Vicki's new house, although when they first let him out of the house, he was entirely confused and dismayed. Like Jan says, his familiar lawn and neighborhood were gone. But he's adjusted, and now roams about, bringing home a field mouse almost every night. Most of them run off when he drops them.

To the credit of Carlsbad, with its green belt planning, there are lots of trees, lawns, flowers and open spaces. Also, real close to Matt & Vicki's place, a 100-acre veterans memorial park is staked out. That'll be nice for hiking and "stuff" like that.

Once more, I'm running out of space, so there will be one more installment of The Trip. It will include: Natalie's joke, beeping bleeping carts at Seattle, and the editor decorating his shirt with salad dressing. But no more bowling scores.

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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.)**

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**Typed, double-spaced letters written solely in 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.**

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### Yellow star thistle battle From Susan Chapp Forestry Action Committee Cave Junction

We are a small group of valley people concerned with the invasive weed, yellow star thistle, which is spreading in our area.



This is a small annual plant with sharp thorns protecting its thistle. It is potentially lethal to livestock. We are seeing it in pastures.

Therefore we are volunteering to eradicate it from our lands. This plant is more dangerous than the knapweed choking our valley. It will cause agonizing death to our livestock, horses, cows, sheep and goats when it gets into the hayfields.

Those who have seen it are asked to contact us. If you have it on your land, volunteers would help pull it. We need to identify locations to know how far this has gotten. We are contacting groups affected by this, asking that they join our efforts.

We go out for a few hours in the mornings and pull weeds together. It is pleasant being with people to

help each other and our valley. It is not terribly strenuous. Anyone can help, including just cheering us on.

There is so much we can do. Those who will volunteer to help pull, or want to notify us of a location, can phone the Forestry Action Committee at 592-4098 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; or Mrs. Peno at 592-2837 evenings.

A few people can accomplish much working together for a common cause.

### Elected extremists From Ginger Salkowski Nehalem

After I read the letter from my county commissioner, Chuck Hurliman, in your fine paper on July 16, encouraging rural Oregonians to identify and give "special blessings" to environmental extremists I grabbed the nearest pitchfork and torch and was ready to join the local mob.

He didn't exactly tell us where to find these eco-extremes that are making a mess of our lives. Unlike most frothing, generalizing scapegoat letters written to incite hatred and fear, Hurliman left out the usual race and religion clues as to whom to target. If he wants "special blessings" conferred, he needs to be more specific.

I decided to look around my home base of Tillamook County to see who obviously is causing all the troubles Hurliman wrote about. I thought the farmers market might be a good place to spot some tree-hugging, economy-collapsing hippy freaks. But after eating several crepes and talking with local farmers about how great their produce was selling, it didn't seem likely this crowd was what Chuck was referring to.

I then tried all the likely spots where eco-extremists might gather and plot world domination; drum circles, watershed councils, Nature

hikes, health food stores, even a yoga class -- but everyone seemed to be having the same troubles as me paying the rent and making ends meet.

I couldn't find any canceled logging operations due to enviros. In fact, logging around my parts seemed pretty much nonstop, with those lovely multistoried forests (the ones with three be-draggled hemlocks standing in a 15-acre slash pile) popping up everywhere I looked. I was puzzled. All these social problems must be coming from somewhere, but the eco-crowd didn't seem to be holding up to Hurliman's accusations.

Then it occurred to me that maybe Hurliman was just sending rural Oregonians on a big fat goose chase. Could it be that he wants us to ignore the real cause of higher gas prices, increased costs of living, roads and public safety in Oregon?

Because after much scapegoat searching it suddenly became clear to me that the group Hurliman is trying to protect, the very extremist group that is directly responsible for fixed-income folks suffering now and into the future is a group Hurliman is

an active leader of: elected officials. That's right, elected extremists.

They are paid fat salaries (at least the eco-extremists volunteer) to create and pass laws that screw us over. All the way from Downtown Tillamook to Washington, D.C. These extremist elects (sic) have taken it upon themselves to use their public offices as a vehicle to destroy the USA.

Higher gas prices? Elected officials give the big thumbs up to a bazillion dollar war in the Middle East that makes gas way more expensive. Food costs? Elected officials decided to use our country's stored grain to make a quick buck on biofuels and then had no food to spare when a huge flood hit the heartland. Costs of local roads, property taxes, schools going up and up; blame local elected officials.

Their extremist agenda is breaking the bank, ruining our fishing seasons, making our landscape ugly, and they are getting away with it. We should take away their elected status so they'll go back to being ordinary schmucks like the rest of us.

## Host an Exchange Student Today!



*Anna from Germany, 16 yrs.*  
Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Anna hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.



*Pascal from France, 17 yrs.*  
Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Pascal's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.

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## Weather Watch

### Cave Junction

**Wednesday, July 30**  
Sunny with clouds  
High--84 Low--52



**Thursday, July 31**  
Sunshine  
High--91 Low--53



**Friday, Aug. 1**  
Sun  
High--93 Low--55



**Saturday, Aug. 2**  
Warm sunshine  
High--92 Low--55



**Sunday, Aug. 3**  
Sunshine  
High--92 Low--53



**Monday, Aug. 4**  
Sunny, breezy  
High--92 Low--49



**Tuesday, Aug. 5**  
Sunny and hot  
High--98 Low--49



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

*Fri., July 18	91	53	.00
*Sat., July 19	91	54	.00
*Sun., July 20	97	56	.00
*Mon., July 21	93	53	.00
*Tue., July 22	87	53	.00
*Wed., July 23	89	48	.00
*Thu., July 24	88	52	.00

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

*Fri., July 18	90	46	.00
*Sat., July 19	89	52	.00
*Sun., July 20	93	53	.00
*Mon., July 21	91	48	.00
*Tue., July 22	87	49	.00
*Wed., July 23	86	45	.00
*Thu., July 24	86	44	.00

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