

Bob's Corner

“OMABI!” could be a homemade acronym for, “Oh my aching back!”

Of course, one would have to explain why that particular thought came to mind. What if a newspaper editor moved some furniture recently and discovered that he no longer is as tough as he thought. Let’s imagine a fictitious couple, She & He, who have a fairly heavy captain’s-style bed, and see how an aching back might have arisen. It could be fun.

She: We should rearrange the bedroom and library.
He: Um, well ... OK.

She: Let’s bring that cabinet from the library into the bedroom and put it by the window for my nightstand, which means we’ll have to move the bed a few feet. My nightstand can be moved to your side of the bed, and we can put your dad’s lamp on it. Then we can change the angle of the futons in the library, which means we’ll have to move the rug too.

He: Um, well ... OK.

The man then gets on the floor and strains to push the bed several feet west to make room for the incoming cabinet. He & She carry it into the bedroom.

She: I think it would work better if the bed was moved just a little bit more.

He: Um, well .. OK.

He pushes the bed again to the desired location, and puts the former She nightstand by his side of the bed. However, She & He note that now two of his drawers would be blocked, and the cabinet looks too big where it is now.

She: Let’s put it all back the way it was.

He: Right ...

Later, after more pushing and pulling, and carrying furniture this way and that, plus making some adjustments, He stands back and wholeheartedly agrees with She that it all looks quite attractive. And then, although this is fictitious, He also could comment, “OMABI!”

And just because a certain newspaper editor has been walking crookedly does not mean that he was the one relocating any furniture. That’s my story, and I’m sticking with it.

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Jo Anne Stone, MS, LAc
Next to Caves Pharmacy

Weather Watch
Cave Junction

Wednesday, Nov. 12
Rain
High--60 Low--39



Thursday, Nov. 13
Cloudy with rain likely
High--64 Low--35



Friday, Nov. 14
Sunshine at times
High--63 Low--34



Saturday, Nov. 15
Sun with patchy clouds
High--61 Low--32



Sunday, Nov. 16
Clouds and sun
High--56 Low--30



Monday, Nov. 17
Cloudy
High--46 Low--35



Tuesday, Nov. 18
Cloudy with showers
High--44 Low--31



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

*Fri., Oct. 31	63	51	.35
*Sat., Nov. 1	60	47	1.57
*Sun., Nov. 2	54	47	1.10
*Mon., Nov. 3	48	43	2.05
*Tue., Nov. 4	45	40	.59
*Wed., Nov. 5	47	39	1.10
*Thu., Nov. 6	64	45	.06

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

*Fri., Oct. 31	68	50	.25
*Sat., Nov. 1	57	48	1.45
*Sun., Nov. 2	54	46	.49
*Mon., Nov. 3	48	42	1.94
*Tue., Nov. 4	45	38	.53
*Wed., Nov. 5	45	37	.92
*Thu., Nov. 6	62	46	.05

Hell, I never vote for anybody,
I always vote against.

~ W. C. Fields ~

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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 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.

CCB overkill
From Doug Kendall
Cave Junction

As a design professional, working in and around the local building trades for 30 years, I am increasingly troubled by the recent influx of CCB (Construction Contractors Board) actions in our community.

I don’t think a statewide one-size-fits-all set of rules works for our rural, self-reliant community. There has not been a local public outcry of builder fraud, that I am aware of, to warrant the recent aggressive tactics of CCB here in the valley.

Although I firmly believe in sensible regulation of the homebuilding process, I am aware of local trades people now being abused. They have been investigated and heavily fined because they didn’t have the appropriate license for what they have been doing -- competently -- for years.

Even licensed builders have been forced to buy separate licenses to install windows and doors. Did you see in the article the list of trades now required to show a separate license? “This includes painting, roofing, carpentry, siding, plumbing, electrical, floor covering, concrete, window, insulation, manufactured dwelling installation, inspection services, heating and air conditioning, and most other construction and repair services.”

What next? How about a license to replace light bulbs? How much protection do we need from ourselves?

This is overkill, and it’s driving up prices and punishing low-income people in these increasingly hard economic times. It reminds me of the old saying: “If we didn’t have lawyers we wouldn’t need them.”

The CCB is a private organization hired by the state to regulate contractors. It received \$1.1 million in 2007 to hire 12 new investigators and is additionally funded by licensing fees and the monies from fines levied in civil court actions. This is bad funding practice which encourages prosecution for the sake of prosecution.

The more they successfully prosecute, the more investigations they can conduct. They are driving our back roads following suspicious vehicles, looking for trouble and punishing low-income workers struggling to get by.

This level of “care” might be useful in urban areas where customers might be more vulnerable to unscrupulous rip-off. But here in Skin & Bones County, we will always have our thriving “handyman” network doing good work at reasonable rates. And they will always be self-regulated by good old “word of mouth.”

If you do good work, you get more jobs, if not, your negative reputation serves as a form of regulation.

A CCB license is not a

Correction

In the Oct. 29, 2008 issue of *Illinois Valley News*, a photo caption misidentified an Illinois Valley High School student athlete. The was mistakenly identified goal-keeper is Ben Kendall.

guarantee of quality work anyway. I’ve seen examples of very shoddy work done by licensed contractors, and there are no guarantees that they know what they are doing. Anyone can buy a CCB license. They are not required to demonstrate competence in their trade; instead they are taught about all the ways they can be fined if they or someone else on the job is working without a license.

I think it would be a good idea for us to contact our state senator and representatives to express our dislike of the tactics of these heavy-handed government sponsored Thugs. Unfortunately many members of our state Legislature are themselves contractors who have initiated these stepped-up activities of their CCB.

If we didn’t have the “Contractor’s Control Board,” we wouldn’t need it.

What’s up?
From Harry Johnson
O’Brien

Through mid-November we’ll be blessed with a beautiful light show every night.

The Taurid meteor shower, a weak but long-lasting shower, will be active. Taurid’s meteor showers are small, but we should see some spectacularly nice meteor streaks across our night sky. This is a swarm year, when the shower is predicted to be above average, so viewers should keep an eye out for fireballs.

Vista, the brightest asteroid, is about to go across our night sky. It’s easily visible with binoculars near the head of Cetus. Use a star finder chart for November to find it. Full moon will

start Wednesday, Nov. 12.

A haunting success
From Darlene Anderson,
chairman
I.V. High School Grad
Night Committee

The Illinois Valley High School Senior Class Happy Haunting House at Jubilee Park Pavilion ended with squeals of delight when the proceeds were counted.

After welcoming visitors (real and ghoulish) nightly for a week prior to Halloween night, the seniors and parents were happy with the community’s overall support of their first-time endeavor. With the safety approval of I.V. Fire District’s Kamron Ismaili and Kris Sherman, our doors opened with a ribbon-cutting by Mayor Tony Paulson and IVHS Vice Principal Patty Dickens-Turk with Michelle Binker from *I.V. News* on hand for photos.

Parents of seniors, as well as younger students, put forth extra effort in the design and nightly characters needed to inhabit the Haunting.

The senior class requested prop donations from the community, and several people brought items that fit right in. The committee would like to make special note of those who were generous in helping in the following ways: city of Cave Junction for permission to use the pavilion and dining room for the entire week; Shirley Rusk for loaning her cotton candy machine, and Munchie’z for providing the popcorn machine. Karen Tyler and Dan Heiss went above and beyond in providing the necessary “coffins.”

Nancy Allan, Patrice Carlton, Sue Heiler and Judy Hatch helped keep the crowd

under control and fill in where necessary to staff the rooms, and sell refreshments. The Haunting House contained 21 rooms that required nightly maintenance. Mitchell Thornton and Devon Larue, who served as characters in one room, were invaluable to the committee to keep things up and running safely.

The I.V. Senior Class, with parents and friends, appreciate the community members who participated in helping with the success of this fund-raiser to benefit the 2009 Graduating Class Grad Night Safe and Sober Party.

The committee will offer other fund-raisers throughout the year, and they will be announced.

Accident scene
From Kim Dinkel
Grants Pass

On Oct. 28, my minor son was in a head-on collision on a curvy, narrow country road. Sheriff Gilbertson came and said in his report that both drivers admitted being in the center of the road.

No citations were issued. During the investigation, my son and the sheriff were pleasant until the end, when my son innocently asked the sheriff if he knew his aunt, Carol Dickson, a former deputy sheriff. Gilbertson said that he and she didn’t get along, and told my son he could leave.

Unknown to us, on Oct. 31 Carol Dickson sent an e-mail to the sheriff criticizing him about Cave Junction. Also unknown to us, on Nov. 5 the sheriff sent an angry e-mail back to her. On Nov. 6, the sheriff called my son and told him to meet him at the accident site.

(Continued on page 3)

Point of View

By ED FEULNER, President
The Heritage Foundation

Think government-run health care will cure the problem of the uninsured?

Tell that to Hawaii, which earlier this year decided to offer universal health care to children with the so-called “Keiki Care” program promising to ensure anyone younger than 18 who didn’t already have insurance. But seven months into the experiment, Hawaii is canceling it.

Why? “People already able to afford health care began to stop paying for it so they could get it for free,” explained Dr. Kenny Fink, of the state’s Dept. of Human Services. “I don’t believe that was the program intent.”

Of course not. But it was a predictable outcome.

Once government enters a market and promises a “free” service, people who’ve been buying that service on their own will stop paying for it. They’re happy to let the government (i.e., taxpayers) pick up the tab. The “free” government program crowds out affordable private programs, leaving consumers no other options. And it can happen quickly.

This matters to all of us, because our country soon could see a crowding-out effect on a national scale.

Barack Obama has vowed to “expand Medicaid and the federal State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) eligibility and ensure that they continue to serve their critical safety net function.” However, as Hawaii discovered, that’s exactly the wrong approach. The federal safety net will swiftly become a hammock.

Consider Medicaid, the federal-state health program for the poor and indigent. It already costs \$350 billion per year, and it’s anticipated that the price will increase every year even if policymakers don’t expand the program.

As Robert Moffit and Nina Owcharenko of the Heritage Foundation point out in their comprehensive review of Obama’s health-care proposals, “Previous Medicaid expansions have unquestionably helped to ‘crowd out’ private

health insurance coverage for certain populations.” Obama’s plan would only speed the process.

As for SCHIP, the program was intended to provide health coverage for children in low-income working families that aren’t quite poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. But states have repeatedly expanded SCHIP eligibility. Today, in many states, children of middle-class families are often eligible.

It’s worth noting that Obama intends to require parents to carry health coverage for their children. One way he wants to expand coverage is by extending SCHIP to many more families, although he doesn’t say exactly how far he would go. Several states already cover families earning three times the federally designated “level of poverty,” and New York wants to extend eligibility to four times the poverty level (\$84,800 for a family of four).

If President Obama embraced that guideline, suddenly more than 70 percent of U.S. children would qualify for government health coverage. That would not only increase cost to taxpayers, it would drive up the cost for those who remain in private coverage. That causes a vicious cycle, as more people end up becoming uninsured.

As Hawaii proved on a smaller scale, such a mandate likely would shift millions of children from family health plans to taxpayer-funded health rolls.

There’s a better way.

Instead of top-down orders, our country needs grassroots reform. Tax policy should empower parents to own and control their health insurance plans. That would encourage them to shop for the best care at the best price.

Americans are smart enough to shop for their own car and house insurance. Surely they can pick a health plan that suits their family’s needs as well.

That may not sound as easy as simply mandating “universal coverage.” But it has this advantage: It works.

To the 16,000+ who wanted me for commissioner and to the 22,000+ who joined me in voting down the taxing district advocated by the incumbent I nearly unseated...

"Thank You!"

If you want to help me in the future, contact me:

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