

Bob's Corner

A funny thing happened on the way to helping a relative stuck in mud last week. Yeah, ha-ha.

The adventure began shortly before 6 last Friday night, not long after I arrived home from the office. This relative phoned to ask innocently, "Want to go for a drive?" Knowing that I might regret the answer, I bravely answered, "Sure!"

Relative said he was up Happy Camp Road, and his vehicle was stuck. When I inquired as to just where he was, off Happy Camp Road, he blithely answered that it wasn't too far up, and that I'd probably know where to turn if I kept my eyes open. Something like that.

Off I drove, sure that my rescue mission would take not long. Unfortunately, I never realized there were so many side "roads" off Happy Camp Road. But I was game, and took a likely one. Meanwhile, the relative was hiking out, a distance he estimated at 5 miles, so I was supposed to be on the look-out for him.

After taking five or six muddy, rutty side roads, and following each for several miles through overhanging vegetation, I could not find the relative. Cell phone coverage up there is spotty, so I couldn't always reach him. After some three-plus hours or so, we scored, as he had made it to the main road. He was mud head to toe, as he had tried to remove his vehicle from a boggy, nasty, just-plain-awful water bar trap before phoning for help. I drove past him once, but turned around.

To mercifully make a long story short, which is not always easy, we headed back up the road to find his rig. He admitted that at one point he had been hiking the wrong way, so it had taken longer than he thought to reach asphalt. Believe it or not, we could not easily find his vehicle.

I mean, try this: Drive in the dark on unfamiliar not-in-the-best-shape roads while your passenger struggles to remember where to go. We went this way; that way; some other way; no way. We went down roads that dead-ended; roads where the brush came in like pincers; roads that were so muddy and pot-holed that my all-wheel-drive Highlander in snow-traction mode sometimes slipped a bit. And I had to back out of many a location. Sometimes more than once.

Several times we went down the same minor side-road off the main side-road, while my passenger strained to recall just where the heck his rig was. And finally we found it. Only had to walk approximately 100 yards over rough, muddy terrain carrying the heavy pulley and stuff I had brought.

And wonderful time, with prayer not forgotten, we got his four-wheel-drive vehicle unstuck. Quite a deal. Only took around six hours from the time I left the house until I got home. But hey, what's a Dad for? Oops, sorry son, didn't mean to let the cat out of the bag. Something like that.

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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.

Responses, choices From Lloyd & Cathy Putney Cave Junction

We are shocked that an elected official, our sheriff, would respond to a constituent in such an unprofessional, personal, and hateful manner and then use his power and authority to harass and intimidate an innocent, juvenile relative of hers. (Letter to the Editor from Kim Dinkel, *Illinois Valley News*, Nov. 12)

Carol Dickson (Paid ad, page 3, *Illinois Valley News*, Nov. 12) has the guts to speak out about things she feels strongly about, and we support that. Others in our community feel the same, but are fearful to speak up, and now we see why.

Sheriff Gilbertson's most recent experience was in Kosovo. Maybe this type of behavior by officials is acceptable there, but not in the United States of America. It's behavior like this that causes voters to vote "No" on anything they can. Contrary to the beliefs of some, "No" votes do not mean we are uneducated and uninformed about issues.

In a democracy we have three voting choices: "Yes," "No" and "Abstain." If the only acceptable vote is "Yes" – why bother? Once a person is elected, it's nearly impossible to remove them, so we try

to control their actions with our votes.

Until we get politicians in touch with and respectful to the common person, they will continue to struggle with passing money issues.

(Editor's Note: Sheriff Gil Gilbertson said that the accident at issue still is under investigation).

Presidential escapades From John Bowler Kerby

A friend just remarked to me in her unique way that when she hears yet more of the president's escapades, she "sees the Devil's horns."

Last Friday, Hank Paulson, secretary of the U.S. Treasury, disclosed his decision to not use money to purchase "troubled" mortgages. Congress approved the bailout for precisely that purpose.

The secretary and president are laughing all the way to the bank. That's their bank, not ours, however much money we invest in it – \$290 billion and counting.

Meanwhile, the president sells scam after scheme to Congress to solve the problems caused by the last few years of Wall Street speculation in our homes. First there was HOPE. Mortgage lenders would renegotiate to help home owners overwhelmed by the consequences of the speculatively inflated home prices, complex loans, bad financial advice and rapid worsening of local economies.

Renegotiate with mere borrowers? No way: It's much better to foreclose on what FDIC estimates is 4.4 million problem loans; have 10 million Americans on the streets; and resell those foreclosed properties to your buddies at prices much less than the original loan. At least it is if you control a big bank and

have a nice beachfront apartment in the Caribbean to retire to when the gunfire starts.

OK; HOPE was hopeless. So the president sold Congress TARP. Rather than have lenders renegotiate those loans, the federal government would buy them and do the work instead. Sounds a bit like socialism, doesn't it? – Ownership by the people of their own homes? It's a great idea with just one problem: the Bush government.

So TARP turned out to have a lot of holes. Remember that this was the key part of the great bail-out plan backed by Bush. Remember that it had to be passed so quickly without a chance for Congress to get down to the details? It was an emergency; everyone had to run about like a flock of chickens with their heads cut off.

It's still an emergency, right? Panic, everyone panic. Damn right it's an emergency; it's going to be an emergency until the real problem is fixed. That will not happen until Jan. 20, 2009.

Meanwhile, even the federal government is fed up with its own head. Last Friday, FDIC proposed its own fix for HOPE. Paulson already had rejected it. Normally that would be the end – the president is in charge, right? FDIC chose to publish it on its own Website.

FDIC estimates that 4.44 million of the large loans in the country are at risk. Its scheme aims to reduce payments to "as low as 31% of monthly income." It's based on the provisions already approved in HOPE. Maybe it won't work, but at least FDIC is addressing the problem.

The government isn't staffed by demons, but by real, honest, hard-working people. To find a demon,

one has to look beyond those men and women to the people at the top.

The president's solution is to give lots of money to big corporations. All he has left us with is the Corporate Refinance and Assistance Program, which provides an appropriate acronym.

'Not good breeding' From Linda Barrow Portland

I purchased a puppy from Cave Junction in September 2007. The puppy was advertised as Show Potential, Vet Exam, worming, AKC registered, Health Certificate.

But what I received was a puppy with no specific vet exams, two heart defects, tapeworms, fleas, not AKC-registered until I had an attorney write the breeders a letter one month after my purchase, no health certificate, extra-large ears for his breed, and had to have seven extra teeth removed.

The breeder also stated two different Sires to my puppy and said it didn't matter who the father was. I paid \$600 for my puppy. I'm suing for false advertising that falls under the Consumer Protection Act, Unfair Trade Practices Act, Animal Welfare Act and Oregon Revised Statute 646.608.

I don't like to be lied to or deceived, so I'm in contact with every single law enforcement organization, legal organization, and animal organization that I can contact. It's kind of hard to get any help within Josephine County, because the Animal Control officer who took my complaint for a report is this breeder's neighbor.

Animal Control's report and its emails to me contradict each other. Animal Control

(Continued on page 3)

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From the Bottom of Our Hearts.

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OF THE ROGUE VALLEY
ILLINOIS VALLEY BRANCH

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Our kids need your help!

Every dollar makes a difference. Please, take a minute to join these forward-thinking members of our community who are proud sponsors of the Illinois Valley Branch of the Boys and Girls Club.

We would love to see your name as our sponsor on the list above.

Drop your check in the mail today.

Boys and Girls Clubs, Illinois Valley Branch
P.O. Box 2636 • Cave Junction, OR 97523

For more information contact:
Scott Thornhill, Boys & Girls Club Branch Director
at (541) 287-0900 or (541) 592-4771 go online to
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Providing A Positive Place For Kids



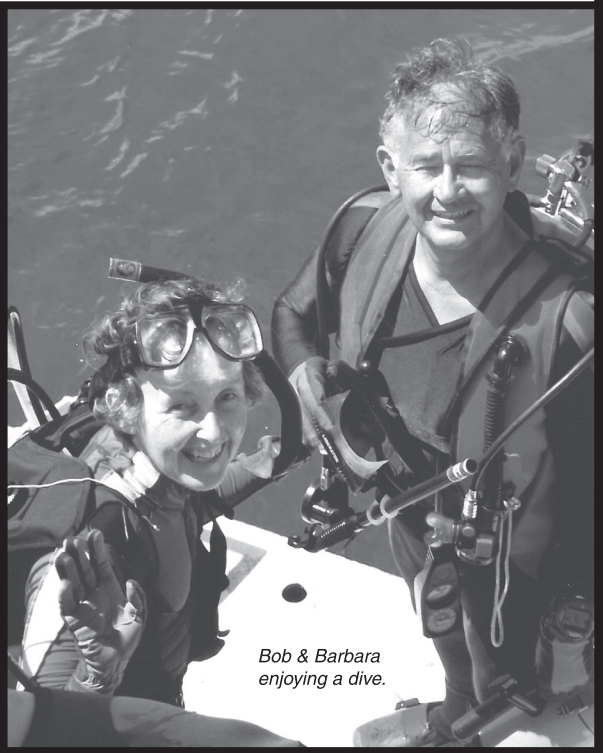
ILLINOIS VALLEY KIDS

Sponsor Spotlight

Robert & Barbara Bean

Bob and Barbara Bean moved to the Rogue Valley over 24 years ago to join our beautiful community. Strong believers in the Boys and Girls Club, Bob and Barbara generously give their time and support through volunteering with children, leading fundraising efforts and advocating for our local youth. Bob and Barbara share our dream of a full-service Boys and Girls Club and Community Center in the Illinois Valley and they are working to make this dream a reality,

"The Boys and Girls Club is the best! We support the Illinois Valley Boys and Girls Club because we believe kids need positive role models, especially at this time in their life – and they get them at the Club. The Boys and Girls Club teaches strong values to our kids, who will soon grow to be our neighbors and ambassadors of our community."



Bob & Barbara enjoying a dive.