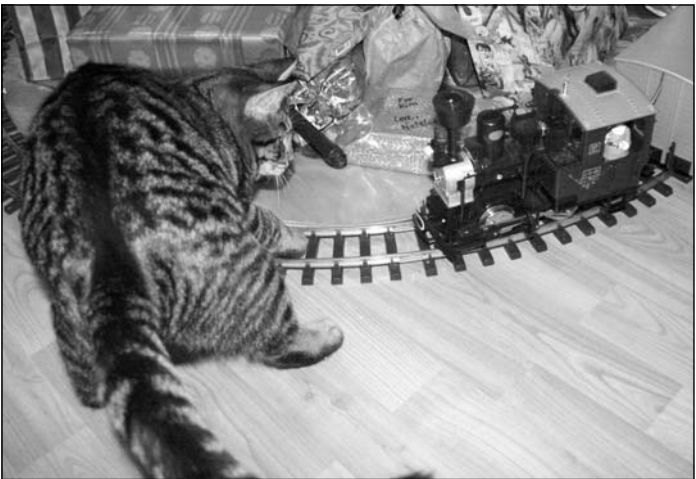


Bob's Corner

What's Christmas without little children around? We haven't had youngsters during the holidays for many years, but 2008 is different because we have 6-year-old Natalie and 3-year-old Ella with us, visiting from Carlsbad in San Diego County.

Of course, we also have their mom, Vicki, our "baby" daughter. She's 40. And our Cave Junction granddaughter Kim, 12, is also on hand. Not to mention her dad, Mike, who's a year older than his sister.

So we have plenty of "kids" for the holidays. Plus our four cats, who, after a few days of having the visitors in their house, still are unsettled. Except for *Scrappy*, the youngest kitty, who loves everybody. He's also the culprit



Scrappy and the irresistible Christmas train.

who broke a glass angel, and he keeps wrecking our model train that goes around the Christmas tree. He likes to chase it, or sit on the track and challenge it.

Oh, and by the way, the "tree" we have standing is our fourth this season. Here's what happened: The faux tree we used last year had to be brought to the office because the cats were eating parts of it. And then barfing up and down the hallway, which isn't very Christmasy. We got a metal tree, but a cat (think *Scrappy*) broke off a branch, so we're going to return it. I was sent on a hunt for a certain tree that a certain spouse saw in Grants Pass.

Unfortunately, I failed as a hunter and brought home the wrong version. Back to GP I went, and managed to find the correct style that time. Tree #4 is OK even though my certain spouse wanted it to be all-white, but only multicolored lights were available. It's all white with me though.

We're having a grand time. And we're looking forward to Christmas morning festivities, what with the two small children, the medium-size child, and the two older kids who are our children. Besides that, Jan and I always get a charge from Christmas. That's "charge" as in a good thing like pleasant emotions, not as in charge card.

Jack Brown still behind Ellis after vote recount

A recount of ballots requested by unsuccessful candidate Jack Brown for Position 3 on the Josephine County Board of Commissioners shows essentially the same results.

The winner continues to be incumbent Dwight Ellis. The manual recount, paid for by Brown, gave Ellis six more votes than recorded in the Nov. 4 vote-by-mail election. So Ellis had 17,695 persons voting for him.

Brown gained four votes in the recount earlier this month, for a total of 16,509 supporters.

County Clerk Art Harvey said that the changes are due to ballot-counting equipment being sensitive to erasures.

Brown paid for the county hiring 20 workers for the recount.



Outgoing Josephine County Commissioner Jim Raffenburg (center) received a plaque and two certificates honoring his various services to the county during the last 12 years. Com-

mission Chairman Dave Toler and Vice Chairman Dwight Ellis presented an award on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties. (Photo by Michelle Binker, *I.V. News*)

Applicants sought by JoCo for library trustee seats

Applications to fill vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees are being accepted by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

The board has seven members who are residents of Josephine County. General

duties and responsibilities are to determine the policy of the library; promote its service and secure adequate funds for carrying on its work; and ensure consistence with the law and the duly adopted resolutions of the county commissioners.

Applications will be accepted until Jan. 12, 2009. They are available at the commissioners' office, Room 154 in the county courthouse in Grants Pass or online at www.co.josephine.or.us. Questions can be phoned to 474-5221.

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.

Christmas meaning From Patty Schalk Cave Junction

I just read the article about the Santa that wasn't there. What was the meaning for everyone meeting at the tree? Satan has taken pure, wholesome times of celebration and twisted them so that the true meanings aren't recognized.

I tell the children that Santa is the clown at the party. A true meaning of Christmas is joy, peace, love, and happiness, the everyday essentials taken to the tree and celebrated. Remember, the wise men came to give gifts.

Thank you, Bob, for all the wonderful works you have done. I am hopeful that Jan and yourself will enjoy retirement.

Peace, Shalom and Merry Christmas to you.

What's up, St. Nick? From Billie Coakley Cave Junction

I'd like to know how

Santa is doing, and I'd like him to know that my family and I are in good health and wishing the same for him and his family, elves and reindeer.

I want Santa to know that I have lots of lovely useful things, so on my list this year I am asking him again for World Peace. I know that is a hard one, but maybe this year he can make it happen.

And for my little valley I would like the public library to be open. Also, a covered and heated salt water swimming pool would be grand. My last wish is for our golf course to be open for everybody, young and old, anyone

who likes to golf.

Santa should be appreciated for all he does, and I'll keep trying to be good. I hope for peace, good health, happiness and love in such abundance that it is shared.

Correction

A photo caption on page 16 of the Dec. 17 issue mistakenly identified the musician at Taylor's Country Store. The guitarist actually is Caleb Orton, his mom said, as he filled in for Kent Stephenson. Orton also is scheduled at Taylor's on Friday, Jan. 9.

Frontier Communications is a community telecommunications service provider who offers basic and enhanced services at reasonable rates within its serving areas. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service	\$ 12.67 / mo.*
Single Party Business Service	\$ 22.32 / mo.*
Federal Subscriber Line Charge- Single Line (Residence and Business)	\$ 6.50 / mo.
Federal Subscriber Line Charge- Non Primary (Residence)	\$ 7.00 / mo.
Federal Subscriber Line Charge- Multi Line (Business)	\$ 9.20 / mo.
Directory Assistance	\$ 0.50 / call, after initial 2 calls
Touch Tone Service	No charge
Toll Blocking	\$ 2.40 / mo.
Emergency 911 Service Surcharge(s)	\$ 0.75/ mo.
Emergency 911 Calls	No charge for calls to 911

*Additional charges apply for Extended Area Service. Budget Measured Service may also be available.

Low-income individuals eligible for Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs may be eligible for discounts off these basic local service charges through state-specified telephone assistance plans. Upon service initiation, qualified individuals are entitled to waiver of a deposit if they agree to toll blocking, which is provided at no charge. Your eligibility to participate in these programs will be verified by an authorized state agency.

Basic services are offered to all consumers in the Frontier territories at the rates, terms and conditions specified in the Company's tariffs. If you have any questions regarding the company's services, please call us at (800) 921-8101 for further information.

After February 17, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products. Information about the DTV transition is available from www.DTV.gov or Frontier at (800) 921-8101, and from www.dtv2009.gov or 1-888-DTV-2009 for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

www.FrontierOnline.com
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5 P.M. THURSDAYS

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until noon Fridays with an additional charge.)

POLICY ON LETTERS: 'Illinois Valley News' welcomes letters to the editor provided they are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. Generally, one letter per person per month at publisher's discretion. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be levied if a letter is inordinately long in the publisher's opinion.

POLICY ON "HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE," DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADS & NOTICES: All submissions must be hand-delivered, faxed or e-mailed to us for publication. Submissions must be resubmitted weekly if the item is to run more than one week.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year in Josephine County - \$22.80
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$26.40
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$36

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction OR 97523

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Dec. 24
Rain & snow
High--39 Low--30

Thursday, Dec. 25
Wintery mix
High--35 Low--24

Friday, Dec. 26
Cloudy and cold
High--35 Low--29

Saturday, Dec. 27
Rain
High--42 Low--33

Sunday, Dec. 28
Rain
High--44 Low--28

Monday, Dec. 29
Rain
High--47 Low--37

Tuesday, Dec. 30
More rain
High--44 Low--35

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

*Dec. 12	45	30	.18
*Dec. 13	37	33	.54 4.5
*Dec. 14	38	33	.47 2.6
*Dec. 15	37	33	.11 5.5
*Dec. 16	34	26	.14
*Dec. 17	28	24	.02
*Dec. 18	40	28	1.97

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

*Fri., Dec. 12	44	28	.17
*Sat., Dec. 13	40	31	.49
*Sun., Dec. 14	38	32	.19
*Mon., Dec. 15	37	32	.28
*Tue., Dec. 16	34	21	.01
*Wed., Dec. 17	30	23	.00
*Thu., Dec. 18	40	28	.96

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Merry Christmas from Dillon's Nursery

For Unto You

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night (Luke 2:8).

In Jesus' day, herdsman were held in low esteem. Their honesty and integrity were often questioned, and apparently they could not always observe the rituals or keep the ceremonial laws. Because of these and other charges, people generally despised them.

But God does not care about the views of the world. Nor is He impressed with one's status in society. And He chose to reveal the greatest event ever — the birth of Israel's Messiah — to shepherds first.

God looks on the heart. Shepherds care for their flocks and willingly protect them with their lives (1 Sam. 17:34-35). This mark of high character is often overlooked.

Jesus, in fact, identified with shepherds. He is called the Good Shepherd because He gave His life for everyone (Jn. 10:11). He is called the Chief Shepherd because He oversees other ministering shepherds (1 Pet. 5:4). And He is the Great Shepherd because, through His sacrifice and shed blood, we are saved (Heb. 13:20). So it was only fitting and proper that shepherds would be the first to hear the Good News.

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Lk. 2:11).

As part of their Jewish heritage, these shepherds, marginalized in society, knew the promise of a coming Messiah. It may have been a favorite subject of contemplation during many long and lonely hours watching the flocks. That evening in Bethlehem, their expectations were realized. The promised Savior had come.

It has been suggested that the flocks of these shepherds were destined for sacrifice at the Temple in Jerusalem. At that time it

was the blood of animals that provided temporary atonement for sin. Little did they know that, with the angels' announcement, a full and permanent redemption was now at hand.

The angels proclaimed the Good News and left: "So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us'" (v. 15).

There was no expressed command to go. Yet the shepherds spontaneously set out for the stable where the baby Jesus lay. It was a response of faith.

Jesus' birth was not announced to the religious, political, or military leaders. It was announced to ordinary people. The Good News is for everyone. As the angel declared, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people" (v. 10).

And they [shepherds] came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds (vv. 16-18).

After seeing the Christ, they returned, "glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them" (v. 20). And these simple, ordinary men returned to their flocks, probably transformed forever by the experience God chose to give them.

by Peter Colón, Southeastern States director for The Friends of Israel.