

Bob's Corner



Felled in its prime.

It was around 2 a.m., I think; can't really remember. It might have been 1:06 a.m. We hear a lot of car noises, as we live on a corner, and there seem to be a lot of people with access to cars and pickup trucks intent on driving as crazily and noisily as possible. In fact, the "Stop" sign at the corner has been knocked down several times by drunken fools.

I think those involved Saturday morning were intoxicated, and were headed east on E. River Street. It looked as though they drifted onto the lane for westbound traffic, went over the curb and onto the defenseless, beautiful tree. Then they spun one wheel, likely the right-rear, and made a large rut as they disengaged after killing our tree.

Which reminds me: Although the Cave Junction street people, the so-called homeless, are a pain; at least they don't drive their vehicles into people's trees. OK, so they all drink too much alcohol; some drivers and street people alike. I'm well aware of the addiction of alcohol. It is a tough one to beat, but it can be done.

We'll have to get the slaughtered tree removed, and we want to replace it. It will be a sad chore. Sometimes it's not easy to forgive those who trespass against us, especially when it involves "tree-son."



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IVHS HOME BASKETBALL GAME SCHEDULE

Feb. 20	Boys vs. Hidden Valley	Feb. 24	Boys vs. North Valley
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Illinois Valley News

www.illinois-valley-news.com
An Independent Weekly Newspaper
Co-publishers: Bob & Jan Rodriguez
Editor-in-Chief: Michelle Binker

Entered as second class matter June 11, 1937 at Post Office as Official Newspaper for Josephine County and Josephine County Three Rivers School District, published at 321 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523
Periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction OR 97523
P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820
Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330
Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net or newsdesk@illinois-valley-news.com
Volume 71, No. 49
Staff: Zina Booth, Brenda Encinas, Scott Jorgensen and Millie Watkins
Advertising sales: Kenny Hix
Website design and maintenance by Ashgrove Visual Arts
Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

5 P.M. THURSDAYS

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

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One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$26.40
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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
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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 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.

Stimulus package From Christine Perala Gardiner Cave Junction

Regarding President Obama's economic stimulus plan, here are some facts that affect us all. Early this month it was reported that during January, some 100,000 people lost their jobs in this country, and the record number of foreclosures is hitting every corner of the United States.

Among other aspects, this stimulus plan will create or save 3 to 4 million jobs during the next two years; avert "literally hundreds of thousands of teacher layoffs" -- and it doubles funding for the Dept. of Education; create 500,000 green jobs and double our clean-energy production; and immediately help unemployed folks get affordable health insurance.

Some economists are arguing that it should be bigger, and they're probably right. But right now, this is the best down payment on economic recovery we have, and it needs to be passed by Congress. The issues being singled out for Republican criticism amount to a tiny fraction of the bill. These include anti-smoking programs that make up less than one 10-thousandth of the package.

If this doesn't pass, we're all in deep trouble. Yet Republican senators are lining up to stop this stimulus, while they gave the big banks billions of dollars of our money with no strings attached. Even John McCain's economic adviser estimates that without the stimulus, unemployment would top 11 percent by 2010, the highest

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THURSDAY, FEB. 19
Pasta with alfredo sauce, enchilada, chicken burger, cheeseburger; barbecue chicken or supreme pizza; Italian sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto, fruit & veggie, or garden salad.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20
Nacho supreme, wiener wrap, corn dog, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, cheese, supreme or taco pizza; ham & cheese sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto, garden, fruit & veggie, or Mandarin chicken salad.

MONDAY, FEB. 23
Beef soft tacos, chicken nuggets, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, cheese, vegetarian, or sausage pizza; ham & cheese sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden, fruit & veggie, or Mandarin chicken salad.

TUESDAY, FEB. 24
Chicken fajitas, Rib-B-Que sandwich, chicken burger, cheeseburger; pepperoni, cheese, or Hawaiian pizza; Italian sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto, fruit & veggie, or garden salad.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25
Taco bowl, teniyaki beef rice bowl, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, sausage, cheese or Italian griller pizza; veggie sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden, fruit & veggie, or Mandarin chicken salad.

level since the Great Depression.

We need to make sure the Senate takes action quickly. Nearly 200 economists from across the political spectrum wrote to Congress, agreeing when they wrote: "We do not have the luxury of a lengthy debate over the best course of action. This legislation may not be enough to solve all the economy's problems, but it is urgently needed and an important step in the right direction."

Those who support the Obama stimulus package should contact their legislators.

(Editor's Note: It's anticipated that the president would sign the bill this week.)

Addiction vs. disease From A. Reser Cave Junction

Isn't it interesting that enough Oregon legislators agreed that alcoholism was a 'disease' that they voted to make a law that protects those so afflicted to continue to drink alcohol in public.

Yet, they exert their legislative powers to stomp out cigarette smoking every way possible. A smoker might toss a butt on the ground, but that is preferable to his human waste being deposited on public property.

Alcoholism is not a "disease," it is an addiction that results in multiple diseases the same as smoking. In a state of intoxication a person can harm others just as a smoker's secondhand smoke can harm others. If our lawmakers can do their best to stomp out one vice they should work equally hard to eliminate the other and not protect it with the label "disease."

Perhaps we taxpayers can let them know about the

inequity of the law that prevents communities such as ours from taking legal steps to discourage/prevent groups of transients from setting up shop on city streets and park to continue feeding their chosen addiction and life style in full public view.

(Editor's Note: See story elsewhere in this issue about possible changes to the law.)

Forestry Action active From T. Peno Cave Junction

I've been on the fringe of the Forestry Action Committee (FAC) as a volunteer and interested bystander.

FAC has been in the news lately as an innocent victim because of an employee charged with crime. Do we blame the victim? "It" happens to nice people because they don't expect it. FAC has reorganized its accounting after learning the hard way.

I've been impressed with what FAC accomplishes. I asked about weed-pulling because I saw a patch of bad weeds spreading. Not long after, Susan Chapp and I were pulling those weeds. I've not seen this kind of hands-on solution before.

We began trying to get more people to help, and it's not easy. Last fall I found a bunch of household rubbish dumped in a flood zone. I talked to Susan, and she found people who could help clean it up. This is action.

Susan told me that FAC was started to try to get people on different sides of issues to work together. I stayed to volunteer because of being impressed with Susan Chapp and her ideas. She is a determined woman with a vision of what FAC can do.

I think that she is a delightful and brilliant woman, and I will continue to help because of what she and others at FAC are doing.

About deputy's driving From Sunshine Cook Takilma

I'm not feeling safe knowing that Deputy James K. Geiger, of Josephine County Sheriff's Office, is driving on our roadways. And I don't think that his K-9 partner, *Basco*, is going to want to ride with him anymore.

Is it true that the deputy has wrecked two vehicles since 2007? And why was he making a U-turn on a blind

(Continued on page 3)




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