

Bob's Corner

Radio waves, especially from AM stations, can be interesting because of the way they “bounce” around, often depending on the weather. When my family used to make the drive from San Diego to El Paso, I enjoyed hearing the preaching, Country Western and Mexican music stations as we rolled across Arizona and New Mexico on our way to Texas.

These days I get a kick out of picking up stations in the Smith River Canyon on Hwy. 199. It's especially interesting to hear the traffic reports from the metro areas. Here we are, sometimes becoming impatient (OK, so it's me being impatient) when I have to wait somewhere in Illinois Valley for a handful of cars before I can turn or pull out.

But listening to stations from the San Francisco Bay area, Sacramento, Portland and Boise, Idaho -- well, they have traffic! One hears reports of long delays because of crashes, fires or construction. I remember taking it all in stride when we lived in San Diego. Didn't enjoy it, but there's not much to do but live through it.

My only complaint about the AM stations I pick up now is that they fade in and out. Usually they fade out just when I'm getting interested in a discussion, a professional sport or am enjoying a piece of music. But there's really not much I can do about it unless I want to pull over (sometimes impossible in the canyon). And I'm certainly not going to back-track; that's against my religion.

Correction

An article in the Feb. 25 issue incorrectly identified the coaches for the Illinois Valley High School swim team as having the last name of Harris. In fact, the coaches are Cynthia Hobbins and Michael Gosenski; and their son, Taylor Harris, is a team member.

Other errors and clarifications needed: The I.V. Swimming Pool was only for summer use, where the team could train if need be. Districts are not qualifiers for state. Basin Freeze was frozen out and had to be moved to a new location, the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

The districts were in January not February. It was incorrectly suggested to contact the coaches, but actually the athletic department should be contacted at 592-2116. The team doesn't need eight swimmers; the coaches would like to have eight.

The article stated that Francine Borth was 18th in state, whereas it should have said in districts.

Kenny Hix, who wrote the article, apologizes for the errors.

(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.

Shrinking toilet paper From Bob Ziller O'Brien

Everyone remembers when a pound can of coffee and a package of pasta suddenly shrank to 12 or 13 ounces, but the price didn't change.

How about a couple of years ago when Nabisco graham crackers shrunk in all dimensions (except price) by about 20 percent? Do the corporations that make this stuff think that consumers don't notice what they have been doing to us in recent years? Some people obviously didn't notice, or at least they didn't seem to care.

Recently, at a wholesale supply store, we picked up another "industrial-size" box of single-ply toilet paper. The price was just a bit more than last time, but the box seemed strangely smaller, even though it contained the same number of 1,000-sheet rolls. Removing the wrap from the first roll, I realized that it was slightly smaller in diameter by a quarter-inch (thinner paper). Then I realized that the width of the roll was smaller by a full half-inch.

This gives new meaning to the words "corporate down-sizing." If this trend continues, we'll all be able to fit two rolls of TP on our bathroom roll holders.

Industrial hemp solution From Waves Cave Junction

The United States has a vast unacknowledged source of wealth to be tapped.

For decades the federal government has attempted to comply with the most destructive special-interest law ever written. America has wasted billions trying to eradicate the very plant which could have prevented this economic crisis. If used to its full potential, within the first year hemp would greatly lower the cost of fuel, food, clothing and building material, put more people to work and generate more new wealth than any other provision of the recovery plan.

Hemp has more uses and produces more usable raw material than any other plant. Growing 15 feet tall in 100 to 120 days, hemp will grow on marginal land, of which the U.S. Government owns millions of acres.

Hemp can yield more than 300 gallons of seed oil per acre. The remainder of the seed is high-quality protein suitable for people or livestock. More than 100 years ago, before petroleum took over, hemp seed oil was the standard fuel oil, machine lubricant and paint base. Anything that can be made from petroleum, including plastics, can also be made from hemp seed oil, with fewer toxic by-products.

Hemp provides the longest and most durable of all natural fibers. Hemp clothing lasts many times longer than cotton, and "breathes" quite well, unlike synthetic textiles. The American Revolution depended heavily on hemp cloth for sails, rigging, tents and clothing. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp and praised its virtues in their journals.

The first U.S. flag was made from hemp cloth, and

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still survives. American independence would have been impossible without the hemp plant, and is gravely weakened by its prohibition.

Hemp stalks can be heat-compacted into boards, beams and panels that are lighter and twice as strong as those derived from trees, and with several times the annual volume per acre. Hemp plastic and fiber composites are tough enough to make car bodies. Another application of the stalks is biomass for fuel, where hemp once again provides annual yields many times higher than forest land.

Hemp is ideal for rebuilding local economies. Decentralizing production greatly lowers fuel consumption as raw material is grown closer to where it's used.

Hemp prohibition was instigated more than 70 years ago by petrochemical and timber barons, simply to eliminate their greatest natural competitor. This artificial scarcity forced over-reliance on timber and oil, leading to massive crimes against nature, and needless wars over basic resources.

It takes courage to admit that a major established policy was fundamentally wrong. Legalizing industrial hemp is one of the boldest and most vital moves required of this administration.

The growing season begins soon, and it will take time to acquire seed supplies from the other countries with industrial hemp programs already under way. Details on transition logistics are available, so phone the White House at (202) 456-1111.

Sheriff easy on thieves From Rycke Brown Grants Pass

During the Feb. 18 meeting of the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, Sheriff Gil Gilbertson told us that he has two detectives assigned to crimes against people, two assigned to narcotics, and none, zero, assigned to property crimes.

Why is our sheriff so easy on thieves? Does he think that the people of this county like the idea that, when they phone the sheriff's office to report a burglary, it will not be investigated?

It is not the duty of the sheriff to enforce every nit-picking law passed by an organized mob. He took an oath to provide justice while upholding the Constitution. There are too many laws to enforce them all, which our sheriff acknowledges when he assigns zero detectives to property crimes. I take issue with his priorities.

Oregon's voters passed Measure 57 mainly because they were tired of thieves running loose. They were deceived by the Legislature with a ballot title that did not tell them that hard drugs makers and sellers would receive mandatory sentences, while thieves would simply get an increase in their presumptive sentences. Now, every hard drug maker and seller convicted will crowd a thief out of our prison system.

Gilbertson should concentrate his enforcement on crimes against people and their property, rather than crimes against the state. He might do so if he hears it from other people. His e-mail address is jocosheriff@co.josephine.or.us.

'Bushisms' not funny From Ray H. Brewer Cave Junction

I thought that I had to respond to the Wednesday, March 4, 2009 "Bob's Corner" of the *Illinois Valley News*.

First, I don't know what the point was. Was it just another case of Bush bashing by a person who hates ex-

president Bush or just some hack thinking he was being funny or some other reason that was less obvious?

George Bush, contrary to the liberal line, is not stupid. He has a bachelor's degree and an MBA from prestigious Ivy League universities and had a higher GPA than the liberal darling, Al Gore. He also was a National Guard fighter pilot.

He is not glib, slick or a great orator, nor does he claim to be. People may not agree with some of his policies. I don't.

But, compared to the last several Democratic presidents and current senators, he is a saint. He admits past mistakes and has asked for and been forgiven by God, as opposed to denying them or saying, "I didn't inhale," or some such nonsense.

Let me name some of the liberal heroes. Jack Kennedy (womanizer), Ted Kennedy (womanizer, drunk, college cheat and leaving a drowning girlfriend to die), Johnson (responsible for the majority of deaths in the Vietnam War which Kennedy started), Carter (possibly the most ineffective president the country has ever had), Clinton (draft dodger, womanizer, lied under oath). Not even to mention the current crop of loonies now in charge.

Oh well, that's enough of

that. I would much rather have an honest, decent president who sticks by his convictions than a glib, smooth talker who constantly changes his views according to the polls and has no moral convictions. I understand that most liberals believe that anyone with morals is a moron, but I can assure you that is not true.

Firearm licensing From James Walmsley Cave Junction

Regarding H.R.45 (Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009) "To provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes."

Introduced in the House of Representatives, Jan. 6, 2009, by Congressman Rush, (former Black Panther) of Illinois, he and the treasure trove of politicians and lawmakers demonstrate nothing but contempt for the Constitution and laws they don't like.

This bill does nothing to address the growing problem with gangs, but will make criminals of law-abiding citizens who respect the Constitution.

We need to phone our
(Continued on page 3)



All-you-can-eat Buffet
Lamb and Corned Beef & Cabbage \$24⁹⁵
Sunday, March 15, 10 a.m.~2 p.m.

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Patrick Creek Lodge
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St. Patrick's Dinner
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Join us for our Annual
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Registration starts at 6:30 PM
Board meeting at 7:00 PM
Business Entrepreneurial Center in Kerby at the RCC Belt Building
I.V. Community Development Organization

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