

## Bob's Corner

Numbers always have bothered me. Especially in high school and college during courses involving algebra, geometry, trigonometry and other inhumane situations.

Now numerals are running rampant. What is your age; your date of birth? What is your Social Security number; your Medicare number? What is your address, telephone number, ZIP Code, hat size, sleeve length, driver license number, car license plate? Arghh!! Numbers are taking over the world.

What is the GNP? What is the inflation rate? What's your income? How about the unemployment figures, the number of homeless, the number of people earning less than the designated poverty-level income? How many days until Christmas? How many grandchildren do you have, and what are their ages?

Is the population rising -- give us the figures! How many children are being born? Which reminds me of the story about a meeting of world leaders concerned about the birth rate. Said one man, "Gentlemen, somewhere on this planet a woman gives birth every 45 seconds." Another delegate answered, "Well, we've got to find that woman and stop her."

And this somehow brings us to the telephone directory used by my late parents. Actually this brings to mind another story; this one about the folks who produce those doggone telephone directories. It's been announced that to save money, the new listings will not be in alphabetical order.

Now we're back to my parents. They had a directory (actually they had two of those small booklets available at many stores) of phone numbers for their physicians, drug stores, family members, associates, plumbers, tax consultant, financial adviser, yard-care people, house cleaners and the like. The wonderful aspect of the two booklets was that they literally did not involve alphabetizing.

Numbers were scattered willy-nilly. So it was always a fascinating adventure to seek a number for any of the people they wanted to contact. I tried to help them with it, but quit before my brain exploded.

At this point, what with being inundated with numbers from all sectors of my life, I'm thinking we might forego the alphabet and simply switch entirely to numbers: 9,12,12 12,5,20 25,15,21 11,14,15,23 ...

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## Illinois Valley News

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### 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.)

**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 letter 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.

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Illinois Valley News

## 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.**

### Commendable young people From Donald Lockridge Rogue River

In this day and age, we find a lot to complain about and little to laud. And on those occasions when we find something good happening, we smile for a second, feel good for a short spell longer, continue with our daily lives.

Recently, I had the opportunity to see something happen which made me feel good for quite a long time.

On Saturday, April 4, I stopped at a fast food restaurant in Grants Pass to sinfully enjoy a hamburger, fries and vanilla shake. When I entered, I encountered a scene which may have caused the faint-hearted to beat a hasty exit for a somewhat more tranquil environment.

I am stalwart, so I ventured into the bedlam because nothing was going to deter me from fulfilling my quest.

The place was full of high school students in baseball and softball garb. Still, I stood in line, awaited my turn and while doing so, observed what was occurring. What I saw as I waited and while I enjoyed my feast, made me feel wonderful.

I watched a group of young people enjoying being together. I watched a group of young people able to converse in words acceptable in any society. I watched a group of young people who said, "Please," "Thank you," smiled at other patrons, were respectful and polite not only to their peers and coaches, but to all the other patrons.

I watched a group of young people, some who obviously enjoyed the company of members of the opposite sex, behave in a classy man-

ner which kept their PDAs tasteful.

Many of our young people do not realize that when they are in the public eye, especially in the uniform or colors of the school they represent, the public will make a judgment on the mores of their group in particular and teen-agers in general. The impression they made on this old guy was wonderful. They are to be commended, as well as their coaches, and the staff at Illinois Valley High School, for such a classy group of young people.

Oh, I see by the article in the Monday issue of the *Daily Courier* sports section, their classiness carries over to the competitive field.

By the way, my hamburger, fries, and shake, tasted great.

### Bullying needs addressed From Leandro Paige Warner Creek Correctional Facility, Lakeview, Ore.

In the *I.V. News* Letters to the Editor I've read a couple of letters talking about bullying in our schools.

I grew up in Illinois Valley, went to Evergreen Elementary, Lorna Byrne Middle School and IVHS. I was teased and bullied in all three schools. It was so bad I stopped riding the bus to school when I was in middle school.

I walked or rode my bike to school to avoid being teased. I was teased because I would blow up, and the other kids thought it was funny. In high school I spent a lot of time in ED lab.

At 18, I dropped out with just 12-1/2 credits out of 27 needed to graduate. The emotional scars are still with me many years later. It has thoroughly and totally affected my life.

This problem needs to be addressed in three places.

One, with the victim and his family. The parents need to listen and be supportive and realize that words do hurt. Siblings should be encouraged to be there for each other. Try to find out why the child is being bullied and help them cope.

Two, it should be dealt with in the school. The teachers, staff and the school counselors are the people immediately present. They can pass

information to both parties' parents and can intercede in conflicts, provide moral support and help the victim cope.

And third, with the parents of the bully. Again learning why the child is doing what they are doing, helping him or her cope with life in school and out, and if necessary, provide punishment.

It will take a group effort of all three and even the community to eliminate this problem.

## May 19 ballot info now online

Several ballot races and measures will be put before Josephine County voters in the Tuesday, May 19 vote-by-mail special election.

Information is available online, said County Clerk Art Harvey.

The *Voters Pamphlet* is available for download in PDF format. Go to the county's Website: [co.josephine.or.us](http://co.josephine.or.us).

Select "Clerk" from the "Departments" drop-down menu, then select election/voter registration information.

Besides an election for members of the Three Rivers School District Board and Rogue Community College District, four seats on the Kerby Water District board are up for grabs. No candidate has filed for two of those seats.

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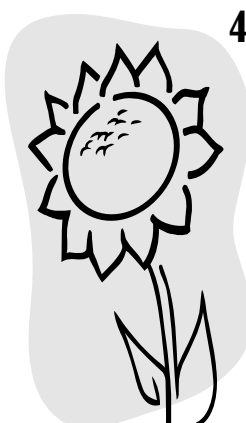
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### THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Pasta with marinara / meat sauce, bean & cheese burrito, chicken burger, cheeseburger; cheese, barbecue chicken, or supreme pizza; Italian, or turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto, fruit & veggie, or garden salad.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

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

### MONDAY, APRIL 27

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Chicken fajitas, BBQ chicken sandwich, chicken burger, cheeseburger; pepperoni, cheese, or Hawaiian pizza; Italian, or turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto, fruit & veggie, or garden salad.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Taco salad, sweet & sour chicken rice bowl, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, sausage, cheese, or Italian griller pizza; veggie, or turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden, fruit & veggie, or Mandarin chicken salad.