

Bob's Corner

Was "playing a game" the other day with granddaughter Ella Valentina Kaplan, who recently attained the age of 4 and had a Halloween cake for her party. The cake lady asked if the order was an error, what with it being May and not October. No mistake; Ella wanted a Halloween cake.

By the way, for those interested in namesakes, this lovely little girl is named for her great-grandmothers. My wife's mom was named Luella; my mom was named Valentina.

But about the game we were playing. Ella always asks shyly, "Do you want to play a game with me?" Then she bats those big blue eyes and smiles, so what's a grandfather to do? Oh, and she's the one who named me PopPop; that's what she and her sister, Natalie, 6, call me. And Jan is Nonna.

Back to the game. Ella likes to play Pick-Up Sticks. Actually, she likes to *win* playing Pick-Up Sticks. If she loses, she announces that she's tired of the game and wants to play something else. It's interesting playing any game with her, because she makes up the rules as we go along. I find it amusing and somewhat intriguing as to how she adapts to mistakes by changing the rules. In her favor. But what's a grandfather to do?

For example, if she moves other sticks while getting one, she still gets to keep the one she was going for. If it happens to me, I don't get to keep it. As I said, she likes to win.

We also played a memory game involving upside-down cards that need to be matched. She has a phenomenal memory. Either that, or she's marked the cards and has a great future in a gambling casino.

The other day we were riding somewhere, and she asked, "Do you want to play Guess What Song?" I responded, "Sure." So she hummed a tune, and I listened intently. Could not figure out the title, although at 65 I've heard a lot of music. I gave up. Ella said, "It's a song called *I Like Nursery School*. I just made it up." I responded, "Oh ..." She then said that she had a second song for me. I said, "OK."

Ella hummed her melody, and I recognized it as *Mary Had A Little Lamb*. I announced my answer. I was wrong. It was not *Mary Had A Little Lamb*. Instead, according to Ella, it was *Daddy Had A Little Girl*.

Then it was my turn, so I gave her *Silent Night*, which she did not recognize, despite my best humming. When I tried to render my second song, she stopped me cold. "You only get one song," I was informed.

And I smiled because, what's a grandfather to do?

Family Fun Day Saturday

It was just about four years ago when Jimmy & Salena Su decided to purchase the O'Brien Country Store.

Now the couple has designated Saturday, June 6 as O'Brien Family Fun Day as a way of celebrating that anniversary and giving back to the community.

Event co-chairman Cheryl Johnson said that from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., several activities are planned for the entire family. Those include a castle jump house, pony rides, a bean bag toss, dime toss, 50-50 raffle, face painting booth, Ping-Pong toss, dart balloon throw, fishing for prizes, a horseshoe tournament and bingo.

"We're trying to have enough for everybody," she said.

Game tickets will be 25-cents each, and proceeds from the event will go toward supporting the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVHSA), Johnson said.

"Jimmy and Salena chose the Safe House as their beneficiary because they wanted to do something for the community," said Johnson, a member

of the IVSHA Board of Directors. "I am hopeful that we can raise between \$800 and \$1,000."

DJ *Buster* will provide music for the event between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Hamburgers and veggie burgers will be sold with chips and soda or water. Taylor dogs with chips and soda or water also will be available for purchase.

Most of the events will take place on the field between the store and Lone Mountain RV Resort.

Many area merchants contributed to the festivities with donations, Johnson said. They include I.V. Building Supply, which donated lumber and plywood.

A woodworking class at Illinois Valley High School built the beanbag board as part of a class project, and tables and chairs are being loaned by the I.V. Lions Club. High school and middle school students from the College Dreams program will be on hand to help, Johnson said.

There is no admission fee for Family Fun Day. For more information, phone 592-2515.

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.

Cougar concerns addressed From Annette McGee Rasch Cave Junction

I'm writing regarding concerns about cougars.

While having a cougar around can seem frightening, Oregon has never had a human fatality as a result of a cougar attack. Generally, when one spots a cougar, it's only a juvenile seeking its own territory.

Young cougars are usually shy. If livestock and pets are properly safeguarded, especially at night, the cougar will soon move on. Barking dogs are a marvelous deterrent, but make sure they can get to safety.

Hazing also works: blowing off fireworks or shooting a gun into the air. Keeping lights on and playing a radio at night can also help.

Cougar problems arise when it's too easy for them to get at domestic animals.

There's been a continuing debate in our region about cougar hunting, so I am weighing in on that topic as well. Scientific studies indicate that killing top predators creates more problems: anywhere or anytime, through hunting or culling. Hunters typically take the biggest individuals that cause the least conflict.

Big predators who exist at the top of food chains stabilize other wildlife populations and directly reflect the health of entire ecosystems. Also, science proves how apex predators self regulate; thus when populations are appropriate for the carrying capacity of a given area, excess young typically don't survive. There are no viable indications that S.W. Oregon has too many cougars.

The Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife has no clue what current cougar numbers are, due to the lack of scientific studies. So by changing the rules last summer to allow "deputized" hunters to chase and kill 2,000 cougars with dog packs, lawmakers once again ignored the majority of voters and caved in to hunters who enjoy shooting cougars.

All one has to do is to "claim" a cougar is a prob-

lem, and the death warrant is signed. God only knows how many innocent animals die when people sensationalize sightings. The energy around most cougar complaints reminds me of fish stories, where the fish just keeps getting bigger and bigger.

A friend has spoken to numerous staff members of the appropriate agencies who confirm that complaints about hunters cutting through fences, littering and recklessly endangering public safety far exceeds complaints about cougars. But the hunting lobby is strong in Oregon, and while unlawful hunters are dangerous and can cause a lot of trouble, we hear far less about that.

There's basically no enforcement for hunters, due to budget constraints. There are no accuracy tests that hunters have to take to prove their proficiency with firearms.

Countless animals suffer terribly when wounded, and the hunter doesn't have the will or the skill to track it down. And the *Hunters Guide* reads, "We recommend not to drink or take drugs" What? Just recommended not to drink? Apparently it's not illegal to drink and hunt. Naturally, the bad apples make it hard on respectful hunters.

A recent letter in another newspaper mentioned the savagery of cougars when they take prey. Yet it's the methods utilized to slaughter cougars and bears that I find cruel and reprehensible. That many people think animals exist for us to do with as we please is horrifying. The way humans in general treat domestic "food" animals is grotesque.

I wonder, who are the savages? For competitive science-based information about cougars and other predators, go to bigwildlife.org. Big Wildlife's Website also has a chilling video about cougar hunting, but don't watch if you're sensitive.

Counters county action From Josh Kardon chief of staff, Sen. Ron Wyden's office

Recent coverage of the Josephine County Commission's vote on Sen. Wyden's Forest Restoration and Old Growth proposal requires clarification of some key points.

First, the proposal has not been introduced in Congress, so the board curiously voted on a draft.

What is being circulated by our office is a discussion draft intended to solicit comments and feedback prior to official introduction. We con-

tinue to welcome input that improves the legislation's intent of breaking the long-standing deadlock over federal forest policy.

Second, the senator's draft clearly and explicitly orders the federal government to enhance energy generation from woody biomass on federal forests.

It also gives the federal government the authority to designate areas where biomass removal is necessary and to enter into long-term contracts to supply biomass for energy production. In addition to the biomass provisions in his proposal, Sen. Wyden has introduced legislation changing the current myopic policies that prohibit the use of biomass taken from federal land for renewable fuel.

He included that same provision in his draft proposal, as well, so it is odd that the Josephine County commissioners cited an alleged failure to mention biomass as a basis for opposing the draft legislation.

Finally, the claim that Sen. Wyden didn't include any of Oregon's 18 timber-dependent communities in the discussion of the bill is stunningly inaccurate. Sen. Wyden and his staff sought, and continues to seek, input from

all sides of this issue.

We have spent many hours in discussion with leaders from the O&C counties, and based on a recommendation from the Association of O&C Counties, an early version of the bill was amended to change the definition of old growth on O&C lands from 120 to 160 years, the standard used by President Bush in the Western Oregon Plan Revisions, or WOPR.

IVHS Activities Calendar
Brought to you by the folks at

592-3556
Cave Junction
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Brookings
471-7487
Grants Pass
773-7487
Medford

WILD RIVER & BREWING CO. PIZZA CO.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4

* 21st Century 3:30 p.m.:
homework help
* Graduation at IVHS
7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

* 21st Century 3:30 p.m.:
homework help

(All 21st Century events are open to parents of students at any I.V. school. Also open to homeschoolers.)

Bake Sale

Nifty & Gifty Thrift
Saturday, June 6
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Immanuel United Methodist Church
200 W. Watkins, C.J.

Spiral Living Center Presents:

Beginning Goat Herding with Laurel Peña
Saturday, June 6, 10am to 2pm \$25
At the Frog Farm in Takilma



Discover the wonderful world of raising goats. Learn about basic goat care, milking, kid rearing, pack goats and more.

Space is limited. Call to pre-register.

541-592-3642 ~ www.spiralliving.org

Country Breakfast

I.V. Senior Center

520 E. River St., C.J.

Saturday, June 6
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

* Biscuits & Gravy * Pancakes
* Eggs * Bacon * Sausage
* Coffee, Milk, Juice



Adults - \$6
Children 12
& under - \$3

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

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Volume 72, No. 12

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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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

illinois-valley-news.com

In all fairness

In a story from the May 20, 2009 issue of the *Illinois Valley News*, it was stated that Kal Korff "claimed to be an Israeli Secret Service agent." Korff was not personally contacted for this statement, the reporter having relied on items gleaned from various Websites.

Korff has written to correct this, and has stated emphatically that he is no "agent". He identifies himself in written communication with this paper as "Analyst, Broadcaster, Columnist, Counter-terrorism Specialist, Lecturer".

The *News* regrets the error.

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Moderation in temper is always a virtue;
but moderation in principle is always a vice.

~ Thomas Paine ~

Curves thanks its members for the success of our recent food drive. 9,980 pounds of food was collected and donated to our local Open Door and Harvest Kitchen. Our members diligent efforts were rewarded by local merchants who donated items for our annual auction.

Special thanks to the following merchants:

Country Electrical
Michelle's Restaurant
Northwest Hairlines
Special Productions
River Mountain Printing
Heritage Moments
Brandy's Boutique
River Valley Restaurant
Jefferson State Financial
Adorable Dog
Abiding in the Vine
Back Street Salon

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