

Bob's Corner

Again this year, no institution of higher education (or even lower education) felt the need to invite me as a commencement speaker. That seems like a wise decision.

Printed newspapers involving those of us in the Fourth Estate are not perceived of late as being on the cutting edge of today's society. In fact, if I were either a high school or college graduate this year, entering the wonderful world of newsprint journalism likely would not be my first choice as a major or a career move.

Although, there are the elite among us; those who subscribe, let us say, to newspapers including this one. In my case, newspapering has been my life's work (officially) since 1963. In fact, whenever we travel, even if it's simply to maybe Eureka, Yreka, Eugene, Bend or Salem, I am compelled to purchase the "local newspaper." Can't help myself, it's in my blood, along with several ounces of printer's ink no doubt.

Newsprint journalism has a long and mostly honorable history. Like any vocation, avocation, industry and the like, bad apples turn up occasionally. But by and large, journalists strive to honorably bring the public the news, and some reporters have turned up some startling and intriguing items. Watergate and President Nixon for example. (Some younger folks out there probably will have to "Google" or otherwise check what this means.)

As for me being a commencement speaker, I'd probably break into tears trying to bring a message to this year's crop of graduates. For not only am I a sentimental, nostalgic slob, I am an admitted technology dope. I'm lucky to be able to use a PC, what with having entered journalism when hot lead and Linotype machines, manual typewriters and green eyeshades prevailed. See, there's that nostalgia factor.

But back to Doltish Tech; I don't Twitter or text or tweet, except when imitating birds. I thought Blueberry, or whatever that fruit name is, had to do with toast and biscuits. I still feel goofy when I see people seemingly talking to themselves, only to discover they have some sort of device on one side of their face and they're talking to someone about something or somebody, usually having a "conversation" of no value. (My bias; sorry.)

Now back to graduates, facing their share of the national debt, around half a million bucks each at this point. Unemployment is high, although not as major as during the Great Depression. Why it's called great is a mystery to me. It should be called the Horrible Depression or the Really Bad Depression; something like that. Our country is fighting two wars; some nations are fooling around with nuclear thingies; cities and counties are going bankrupt; home foreclosures are rampant.

Etc.
Life goes on. Graduates will find a way to not only survive, but thrive. We always do.

illinois-valley-news.com

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.

Carrying torch for IVFD From Ken LeGaux Selma

We read and hear a lot of complaints about this area, but let me tell you of a very recent experience.

We got a call about 4 a.m. from Sue Fasching that they had just called 911 -- our oldest son's home at 6375 Lakeshore Drive was on fire. I jumped out of bed, hooked up my water wagon and was met at the house by Josephine County Undersheriff Don Fasching and Maintenance Battalion Chief Chris Sherman of I.V. Fire District. They were amazing, on the radio and directing heavy equipment, firefighting men and women.

You would have seen poetry in motion. The firefighters performed like the U.S. Marine Corps. They responded very fast and did not stop for one minute. Just kept pumping from all sides, up and down, all around, and the professional crew was there with special life-saving gear, crawled into hell as we were not 100 percent sure that the whole family was not home.

The whole firefighting crew worked as one magnificent team. We thank God that the family was not home, but if they were in the house,

I believe the firefighters would have been their only hope. The house was completely lost, but the firefighting team was able to save the adjoining buildings.

Folks need to remember something very important: the majority of the firefighters are volunteers, putting their very lives on the line for all of us without pay. We are so appreciative of this community, families, friends who also responded so fast with help and encouragement.

If you have any negative feelings about I.V. Fire District, I would say to go to a fire and stay there until they complete the job. You would definitely take on a better opinion of them if you were to stick around to the end and be thankful that you didn't get the gut-wrenching feeling to find someone in there after the fire is out. I pray that it doesn't happen to you. It's an experience you never forget.

Wonderful I.V. firefighters From Sue Ellen Fasching Selma

On May 31, about 3:45 a.m. my neighbor's house was engulfed in flames.

Within 10 minutes after the 911 call, the first Illinois Valley volunteer firefighters were on scene. Within 30 minutes there were more than seven fire trucks from the Illinois Valley, Rural/Metro Fire Dept. and Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety.

These men and women worked for more than four hours, risking their lives to save the property of others. I just wanted to say that I am proud to live in Illinois Valley knowing that these wonderful men and women are here

taking care of us and our property.

Hard times - small towns From Tom Ninow Cave Junction

You all know what's been going on with the economy lately -- businesses that were never supposed to fail are gone. As it stands now, hundreds of thousands of people are out of work.

But here in Cave Junction, where unemployment has been above average for years, we hardly see anything different. People still drive their shiny vehicles through town to the coast every Friday night and back again on Sunday afternoon.

The unemployed and the

homeless still wander around town -- looking -- looking everywhere, perhaps for some treasure to enhance their lives. Businesses are still open, the parking lots are full, all is normal -- or is it?

News media report that the North Koreans now have that atomic bomb that they swore they were not building, and a missile delivery system to go with it. Our country is in debt to record levels, and going deeper each day. Our president is working hard to stabilize the economy, but despite his best efforts General Motors, the company whose president said some years ago, "What's good for General Motors is good for

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Soup & Pie Lunch

Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$5 (includes soup refills)

*Lots of Choices
Take-out Available*



Immanuel United Methodist Church
200 W. Watkins St., CJ

Illinois Valley Little League BIG EVENT FUND-RAISER

Sunday, June 14, starting at 10 a.m., Jubilee Park

- Car Wash • Bat-a-thon • BBQ • Band
- Dunk Your Coach/Player Tank
- Other Family Fun Games

Please come support the youth of the Valley and enjoy some good, wholesome fun, food, and entertainment while getting your car washed.



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OF THE ROGUE VALLEY

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- Good Shephard Lutheran Church
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- Illinois Valley Lions Club
- Illinois Valley Grange #370
- Lutheran Women of Illinois Valley
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- Southern Oregon Sanitation - Fahey Family
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- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- Wild River Brewing & Pizza

Thank You!

From the Bottom of Our Hearts.



Providing A Positive Place For Kids

ILLINOIS VALLEY KIDS

Sponsor Spotlight



Toll Free: (877) 273-4843
Phone: (541) 592-4688
4210 Holland Loop Rd.
Cave Junction, OR 97523

For 30 years Bob and Lelo Kerivan have been part of the Illinois Valley. As the owners of Bridgeview Winery, they employ many members of our community. The Boys and Girls Club gives employees the opportunity for their children to participate in a healthy, supportive and safe environment after school.

Bob and Lelo continuously support the Boys and Girls Club. Sponsoring the annual Winemaker's Dinner each year at their winery and by participating in other fundraising events throughout the year.

"It's very important for us as employers that our employees' children are taken care of -- so our employees can do their job without worrying about where their children are or where to pick them up after work. For that reason, I feel all employers should help support the Boys and Girls Club. There's not much for kids to do out here and the Boys and Girls Club gives them somewhere to go."

For more information contact:
Boys and Girls Clubs, Illinois Valley Branch

Scott Thornhill,
Boys & Girls Club Branch Director
at (541) 287-0900
or (541) 592-4771

P.O. Box 2636
Cave Junction, OR 97523

www.bgcrv.com/illinoisvalley

Upcoming Events!

BINGO at BRIDGEVIEW
- Annual Winemaker's Dinner -
August 15, 2009

GolfToberFest
October 2009

