

Bob's Corner

Rutabagas.

Don't know why I said that; maybe I just wanted to see if I could spell it.

Actually, I've been thinking about dogs lately. Dogs I've had; dogs I've seen; going to the dogs; hot dogs; dog days; well, doggone. My first dog was *Yankee Clover*. My mom let me name him, and I used the name of some makeup she was using. It sounded good to me.

I also named my brother, Stephen Richard, although he's not a dog, but my younger sibling. I used the names of two kids I liked at school. But as for *Yankee*, he was the runt of a litter from a Chow. He was a great dog, although he ran sort of lopsided, what with being bow-legged. Something like that.

My mom always swore that you should never feed a dog beans or they'd go crazy. I believed it. After all, when you're a kid, and your mom tells you stuff like that; well, you believe it. Never fed a dog beans; too scared to try. Having a crazy dog full of gas could be dangerous.

Both parents also insisted that you should never pet a stray dog, or someone else's dog because, "You don't know where they've been." Where could they have been that would preclude one from petting a canine? A leper colony? A poison oak farm? Never could figure that one out.

When we lived in San Diego County we did have a crazy dog, name of *Daisy*. We got her from an animal shelter. She was a nut. Don't think she ate beans either.

About the smartest dog we ever had was a Standard Poodle given us by an elderly woman, who thoroughly checked us out before letting us have the critter. Her name was *Sheba* (the dog, not the elderly woman). Actually, the pet's real name was quite long, what with being AKC.

Our most recent doggie was *Bingo*. Had to have him put down a while back, as old age (his, not mine) was making his life miserable. We recently scattered his ashes, along with his favorite ball. Hard to let go sometimes. Doggone ...

Jobs still available, despite recession

There were 18,242 job openings in Oregon this spring, according to the results of the 2009 Oregon Job Vacancy Survey.

That was significantly fewer than the 47,888 job vacancies employers reported last spring. Despite the weaker economy, employers reported a tough time filling certain occupations, and one in 10 vacancies went unfilled for at least two months.

The survey, conducted in late May and early June, provided information regarding the number of job vacancies, their required education level or licenses, and starting wages being offered in Oregon. Employers also provided insights into how long openings went unfilled and whether the vacancies were for newly created positions. Some of the key findings:

*Vacancies existed across a wide span of nearly 400 different occupations, and only 5 percent were for newly created positions, suggesting that most openings came through turnover.

*Registered nurses were in the most demand, with

1,004 vacancies statewide, followed by retail salespersons (556) and nursing aides (483).

*The health care and social assistance industry had the most vacancies with 5,744, followed by accommodation and food services (2,535), educational services (1,554), and retail trade

(1,506).

*There were at least 3,562 vacancies for positions that offered starting wages of more than \$15 an hour. The majority of these openings required education beyond high school and nearly all required previous experience.

The full statewide report and regional reports are avail-

able on-line at www.QualityInfo.org.

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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.)

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.

Brown background From Mary Brown (candidate's wife) Grants Pass

Consider candidate Jack Brown's heritage. A real estate developer and builder, Jack's grandfather moved his family from California to Josephine County in 1934 during the Great Depression. Jack's father lived and worked his whole life here, becoming a respected USPS mail carrier and well-known piano tuner.

Born in 1948, Jack grew up in Josephine County. He attended Fruitdale and Jerome Prairie Elementary schools; then New Hope Christian School, graduating with honors in 1966. He continued his education for a year at Prairie Bible Institute in Canada, subsequently becoming a self-taught student of history, government, and current events.

He worked bucking hay in his youth, then was employed by M&Y Lumber Co. of Selma, Grants Pass Molding Co., Rough & Ready Lumber Co. of Cave Junction, and finally Spalding & Son of Grants Pass, where he worked as a saw filer. In 1979 Jack started moonlighting as Auto Doc, a mobile auto repair business that turned full time by 1980.

Marrying in 1970, Jack and I raised and home-schooled our two children. We have four grandchildren living in Josephine County and one in Canada.

Jack believes that the purpose of man is to honor and revere our Almighty Creator and Savior. This compelled him to be involved in several local churches during the years, currently attending both Blessed Hope Fellowship in Wilderville and Wonder Bible Chapel.

God-fearing candidate From Kurt Ramme Grants Pass

My religious beliefs are simple: God's law as given in the Ten Commandments.

I read the words and apply them to my actions through the understanding and meaning of the words. For example, stealing, or accepting something that was stolen, is wrong, per God's law. It makes no difference what was stolen or the value.

This is not a Sunday School lesson; I do have a point or two to make. How about murder (killing)? God's law prohibits it, right or wrong? Right, good. I ask why our local pastors don't preach and stand against abortion. How about our elected officials?

I know a candidate who also lives by God's law: Jack Brown, seeking a Josephine County Commissioner position in 2010. He is a God-fearing man who has been

very active in each of the area churches that he has attended through the years: Grants Pass Mennonite Church, Pro-volt Community Church, Wonder Bible Church, Foothills Creek Chapel, Redwood Country Church and Blessed Hope Fellowship. He currently attends both Wonder Bible Chapel and Blessed Hope Fellowship.

He has given more than 40 years to our area churches in one way or another. If asked about that, he will talk to you.

Confusion understandable From Gregory D. Anderson Cave Junction

It is understandable why Nicole Resenbrink (Letters to the Editor, *Illinois Valley News*, Oct. 7, 2009) is confused "by so many working people's position against health reform," because the liberal/progressive media avoid or skew the information she and millions of others receive in their daily lives.

Truth is, almost everyone is in favor of health-care reform; it is the government-run health care (public option) most people are against. The simple fact that government has never ever run any program efficiently is enough to make any clear thinker wary. If the government can't run a railroad (Amtrak) or a financial institution (Fannie Mae & Freddy Mac) without massive waste and corruption, why would any sensible

person trust an unknown bureaucrat in a huge government agency to care about our health or that of our loved ones?

Resenbrink works for an agency that has health insurance. However, the company has changed providers several times, and seemingly the prices go up while benefits go down. Government restrictions on free enterprise and government failure to establish reasonable regulations is partially responsible. Let me explain. Competition in a country built on free enterprise is the most-effective way to get the best product or service to the consumer for the least amount of money. Artificial standards established by any other means is neither more effective nor less expensive or efficient.

Take Medicare for example. When Congress proposed Medicare, it (like today) gave an "estimate of cost." The real cost was 900 percent more than what Congress had told the voters it would be. More recently, Congress promised to save us money and reduce our "carbon footprint" by forcing us to use corn ethanol. Congressmen were successful in spending billions of our hard-earned dollars for reduced gas mileage, overall increase in our carbon footprint, and substantial increases in the prices of everything from chickens to bread.

(Continued on page 3)

In Service

Cory S. Glasgow

U.S. Army Pfc. Cory S. Glasgow, a 2009 graduate of Illinois Valley High School, has graduated from nine weeks of basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

He is the son of Wendy Glasgow, of O'Brien, and the stepson of Lawrence Coker, of Cave Junction.

Board of Commissioners approve Illinois Valley sign grant

By MICHELLE BINKER IVN Staff Writer

In a long-anticipated move, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1,500 economic development grant to Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce for a new "Welcome" sign.

The funding, approved 3-0 during the commission administrative meeting on Friday, Oct. 16, in Grants Pass, will help pay to replace a battered "Welcome" sign on

Redwood Hwy. near Rough & Ready Lumber Co. and I.V. Airport, a few miles south of Cave Junction.

Last year, the chamber replaced a dilapidated and burned sign which had greeted travelers on Redwood Hwy. near Hay's Hill summit. The new, vividly colored sign -- depicting vineyards, water, trees and recreation -- was warmly received: The push to erect a duplicate at the southern end of the valley was on.

Said Dwight Ellis, county board chairman, "I have been expecting this request to come in since February; I am glad to see it here." Ellis noted that it fits the criteria for economic development funding.

"If it gets people off the highway and gets them to spend money in the valley," he stated, "I'd say it is an appropriate use of the money."

"I am just thrilled about this project," said Commissioner Dave Toler. He had told the chamber earlier this year that he'd work to dedicate \$1,500 to the project, pending board approval.

The summer came and went, and according to Rosemary DeLashmutt, county chief finance officer, the commissioners spent their entire \$83,000 in unallocated economic development money elsewhere. The additional discretionary funds were not to be had.

DeLashmutt brought to the board's attention an unobligated budget item. It was an unfilled grant-writer position, with some \$24,000 that could be moved around in the economic development schedule to replenish the item titled, "Miscellaneous Projects Approved by BCC: Available Dollars."

On DeLashmutt's recommendation, the board voted to reallocate the fund, and approve I.V. Chamber's \$1,500 request.

The cost for the sign project is approximately \$3,300. The chamber, through fundraising events such as the annual Grape Stomp Party at Bridgeview Vineyards & Winery, has raised the balance, and the new "Welcome" sign should be up soon.

DeLashmutt indicated that there had been additional interest in possible grants, and that she would bring requests before the commissioners "as requests come in."

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson:

*Fri., Oct. 9	77	36	.00
*Sat., Oct. 10	73	40	.00
*Sun., Oct. 11	73	36	.00
*Mon., Oct. 12	59	45	.00
*Tue., Oct. 13	55	48	2.28
*Wed., Oct. 14	61	55	2.83
*Thu., Oct. 15	72	52	.00

Following are the high-and-low temperatures and rainfall recorded at Illinois River Farm in Cave Junction:

*Fri., Oct. 9	78	30	.00
*Sat., Oct. 10	74	34	.00
*Sun., Oct. 11	76	29	.00
*Mon., Oct. 12	60	31	.11
*Tue., Oct. 13	54	46	1.63
*Wed., Oct. 14	63	53	1.56
*Thu., Oct. 15	73	50	.11

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Oct. 21
Cloudy
High--66 Low--37

Thursday, Oct. 22
Clouds and sun
High--72 Low--36

Friday, Oct. 23
Mostly cloudy
High--71 Low--37

Saturday, Oct. 24
Clouds and limited sun
High--68 Low--33

Sunday, Oct. 25
Sun hidden by clouds
High--66 Low--37

Monday, Oct. 26
Rain
High--63 Low--34

Tuesday, Oct. 26
Rain
High--54 Low--40

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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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SPAGHETTI DINNER
& Children's Costume Contest
1st, 2nd, & 3rd prizes for children 14 & younger
Sunday, Oct. 25, 1 to 4 p.m., RCC/BELT Building, Kerby
Public Invited
Adults: \$6, 11 & younger: \$3, 5 & younger FREE
Sponsored by Belt Masonic Lodge to raise funds for Illinois Valley youth.

Spiral Living Center Presents:
How to Make Chocolate Truffles
with Suzanne Vautier
Learn to make delicious chocolate truffles using local nuts such as Bay Nuts and Acorns. Suzanne will share her recipe for award-winning Bay Nut Truffles.
Saturday, October 24th, 1 to 3pm
At the Frog Farm in Takilma \$20
Space is limited. Call to register.
541-592-3642 ~ www.spiralliving.org



Trail Building Help Needed

Enjoy a great day in this beautiful park and share in creating a legacy for future citizens!

Saturday, October 24
Meet at 10 a.m. in the new trailhead at mile post 3, Westside Road.

- ▶ Wear gloves and comfortable boots.
- ▶ Tools needed: shovels, loppers, or hand saws.

For more information, call Sue at 592-6921

