

Bob's Corner

Comes now Thanksgiving 2009, which opens a fine topic for the ancient publisher, staring at soon becoming a 66-year-old guy with the body of a 30-year-old (a 30-year-old Chevy). Having been a newspaperman since 1963, I've got way too many tales to tell.

So I will limit my wandering typefest to a handful (actually quite a significant handful) of situations for which I am grateful. See how nicely that segues into Thanksgiving? Wow, and I'm humble too.

OK, here goes. It was 10 years ago last March that I found myself. Right, I found myself one night lying on the floor in the *Illinois Valley News* office speaking into a telephone and saying, "I think I'm having a heart attack." (I was correct). American Medical Response and Illinois Valley Fire District personnel responded.

I was in trouble, and the medics knew it. Rapid Code 3 trip to the former county hospital in Grants Pass. Life-saving drug administered. Big crowd around me in the E.R. Was I a workaholic? Naw, I just thought that I'd spend the night and get back to the office the next day, a Tuesday.

Many knowing smiles around me. The cardiologist cleared his throat, said I'd likely be out of commission for a week or so. He was right. Way right. Underwent bypass surgery at Rogue Valley Medical Center a week later; hospitalized another week. Was out of commission for three months. Got cocky after getting better. Had another heart attack in San Diego two years later. Underwent installation of stents. Another stent installed at RVMC some time later.

Got serious (most of the time) with exercise, diet and supplements instead of prescription drugs. Still working on attitude. Doing pretty well overall. Especially after dropping a bunch of blubber. Really! I was pushing 255 the first time my heart attacked me. Now I weigh around 185. Hard work, but worth it.

Had another "heart attack" in 1964, but it was a good one. That's when Jan and I were wed. Which means that this month we celebrated our 45th anniversary. She deserves a medal; maybe sainthood for putting up with me. Have a fine family, good friends, great colleagues.

Do I have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving? Absolutely. And I conclude with, *Gracias a Dios*.

Clarification

Real Darwin Awards
From Wendy Northcutt
DarwinAwards.com

I ran across your Nov. 18 column in the *Illinois Valley News* online, where you posted a set of funny stories that supposedly are part of the Darwin Awards -- but unfortunately, they're not.

This set of stories has been circulating around the Internet for a while now, mislabeled. Most of them don't actually fulfill the main criteria of the Darwin Awards, which is that the "winner" remove himself from the gene pool.

While these stories are amusing, they have no connection to the Darwin Awards, which are all posted online (along with lots more information) at www.DarwinAwards.com.

I appreciate your clarifying this situation.

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.

Attacks 'mean-spirited' From W.A. Patrick Grants Pass

Commissioner Sandi Cassanelli has been subject to relentless abuse by leftists and the liberal media. These mean-spirited attacks have taken a heavy toll on the daily operation of our county.

Remember, Cassanelli was asked to serve by the vote of the citizens. When she's treated with disrespect by fellow commissioners they are showing lack of professionalism, which is as unworthy as the childish tantrums of leftist liberals who write letters or speak out at public meetings.

Commissioners should leave their personal disagreements during their time as representatives of the people.

Where was the outcry when Commissioner Dave Toler failed to fulfill his duties as liaison to public works? He should have reprimanded or replaced the public works director for his lack of respect and failure to cooperate with Cassanelli. As one who ran a successful business, if this person were my employee, he would now be in line with the unemployed.

Commissioner Dwight Ellis seldom speaks out in opposition of Cassanelli, but he is willing and quick to follow the lead of Toler. I do believe we need another conservative on the board.

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson needs to step back and look at Cassanelli's stand from a constitutional view. She is the only commissioner I believe, working for full-time sheriff's office financed with tax dollars that are now used to support a socialist agenda.

Let's stop the bickering; eliminate the extreme environmentalist, "social justice" liberals; and the hand-out mentality. We need to stop all the unconstitutional bureaucracy and return to our God-given rights.

To be sovereign and free From J.E. Rafferty Selma

So, which political system do you think our politicians support, our Constitution and Bill of Rights? Or the Communist manifesto?

The manifesto is made up of 10 planks designed to dehumanize people, strip us of our God-given rights and deprive us of our property, liberty and life itself.

Our U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, on the other hand, guarantee our God-given rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

ness. Which system do you think we live under?

Jack Brown is a true conservative who believes it's essential to be sovereign and prosperous, abiding by the Constitution which guarantees sovereignty for all U.S. citizens.

I say again: to be sovereign and free we must support and elect candidates who agree. Jack Brown is the right choice for Josephine County commissioner in 2010.

Crosswalk concerns From Lloyd Franklin Cave Junction

I live at Hopeful Rancho and work at the I.V. Senior Center Thrift Shop Mondays.

I wrote once before, but

have given it much thought and prayer about what I'm about to say again. That's if the city council votes "yes" to what I am saying:

1. We need at least a caution light if not a stop light (at the crosswalk near the thrift shop).

2. A drainage for the water below curb at the thrift shop for everyone's safety.

Maybe a newlywed, friends, your parents or you might be killed, then we would grieve over it. Usually they wait until there's an accident or someone is killed as Stony Point, Eight Dollar Mountain, Selma Bridge.

Let's not wait any longer, but do something now. Besides, this crosswalk is being

used a lot.

True story: A man went to see a friend in a hospital. He was going to tell him something, but forgot. That night the phone rang, and he was told that his friend died one hour ago.

Let's not wait.

Helpful Scriptures From John Bazen Cave Junction

Many say, "I don't watch the news, too depressing."

They are correct, it is. Yet I also take joy in the fact that the overall news has been fully described and written down for us nearly 2,000 years ago, with the latest "Update."

(Continued on page 3)



Friends and Family.

I'd like to tell you about an organization that's near and dear to my heart: Josephine Community Libraries (www.josephinelibrary.org).

As you may know, in May 2007 the libraries in Josephine County closed due to lack of funding. This closure left more than 80,000 people without any library service whatsoever.

In response, a group of dedicated citizens formed Josephine Community Libraries. They decided to reopen the libraries using a model based on public radio and public television, in which they offered memberships to the library but provided free public access regardless of membership status.

In December 2008, Josephine Community Libraries opened the Children's Room of the Grants Pass branch after an 18-month closure. The full library opened in January, and on September 5, 2009, the Illinois Valley branch opened after a 27-month closure.

By the end of the year, the Willams branch and the Wolf Creek branch will have opened. Josephine Community Libraries will have kept its promise to reopen all branches by the end of 2009.

Today, Josephine Community Libraries has more than 2,500 members.

These are remarkable achievements.

But it's clear there's a lot more that can be done. With a county population of 82,000, there is a lot of room for growth in membership numbers. More members means more services, hours, and materials — and a better library for our community.

If you're not already a member, won't you please join today? Your membership is tax deductible, and you can join at any of the following levels:

- ♦ *Sustaining Member \$1 to \$199*
- ♦ *Bronze Member \$200 to \$499*
- ♦ *Silver Member \$500 to \$999*
- ♦ *Gold Member \$1,000 to \$4,999*
- ♦ *Platinum Member \$5,000 and up*

Joining is easy:

♦ *Send a check to Josephine Community Libraries, P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass OR 97528*

♦ *Make a secure, online contribution using your PayPal account or major credit or debit card at our Web site (www.josephinelibrary.org).*

♦ *Be part of the library sustainability solution! Have regular monthly contributions automatically deducted from your checking account. Complete the automatic monthly payment form on our Web site (www.josephinelibrary.org) and send it with your first month's check to Josephine Community Libraries, P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass OR 97528*

Remember, our libraries are priceless... but they aren't free.

See you at the library!

Cinda Naydol

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(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 latter 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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One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$36
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