

Bob's Corner

Still haven't found my notebook detailing the meaning of life. But I haven't given up. It has to be around our place somewhere.

However, there are so many places to look: Closets, boxes, bags, chests of drawers, nooks, crannies, caches, nightstands, under beds, in clothing or car door pockets. And what about our stash of books? You know, stuck in among the volumes.

Maybe the darn thing was misplaced with the Christmas wrappings. Perhaps it's in a kitchen drawer, or in an armoire. Did it get put in a laundry basket and then covered with clothing? I don't know.

I can tell you that sometimes the most obvious places for finding temporarily lost items work. But I've tried that, and the shelf in the garage labeled, "Bob's Junk," does not hold that notebook.

Years ago, when our children were a lot younger and I had a hairy skull and a mustache, the whole family was looking for a tarantula. That's right, a hairy spider. Our son, Mike, had it as a pet. I forget where he got it, but it lived with us for a time. Mike would take it out of its glassed-in tarantula apartment, and hold it in one hand. He'd even let the thing walk on his shoulders and neck.

Funny about that. He now does not like spiders. At all. He has a bit of arachnophobia, I guess. Anyway, one day we went to check on our multilegged guest, and he (it?) was not present. He had escaped and was, we figured, loose in our house. For a long time after that I never went barefooted anywhere in that home.

Never did find the tarantula.

However, while looking for him in the room where he was kept, I made some interesting discoveries around the couch. I did not realize that our offspring were placing bits of uneaten food beneath and behind that couch. Some of the remains looked dangerous.

And somehow, partial hot dogs, pb&j sandwiches, french fries and a quantity of unidentifiable food items found their way between and beneath the couch cushions. I also found three pennies, eight pointless pencils and a comb, so the search wasn't a total loss.

But no tarantula. As far as I know, the critter still is there, maybe waiting for another couch buffet.

Oh, about that notebook with the meaning of life written in it; maybe I'll find it before the meaning of life has no meaning. Maybe.

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Illinois Valley News

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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
Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net or newsdesk@illinois-valley-news.com
Volume 72, No. 45

Staff: Zina Booth, Brenda Encinas, Scott Jorgensen and Millie Watkins
Website design and maintenance by Ashgrove Visual Arts
Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

DEADLINES:

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5 P.M. THURSDAYS

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One year in Josephine County - \$22.80
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$26.40
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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction OR 97523

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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.)

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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.

66 & 67: 'No' votes a must From Mike Hunter Selma

We are supposed to think "Taxing the Rich" is a way out of a bad economy and that the "Fat Cats" need to pay their fair share. News: They already pay a very fair share, and these measures 66 & 67 are just another way of creating "trickle-down taxation" to us.

Businesses would be required to pay a "fair" share whether they make a profit or not. Is that a fair share? Without profit where will they have to get this fair share money? The only place they can: the consumer, of course. Why would we want to discourage struggling businesses enough that they close their doors or move out of state? This makes no sense.

Our president plainly stated that it would be foolish to increase taxes during a recession, as it would keep slowing the economy. But our state lawmakers don't seem to hear this and apparently don't read newspapers or watch TV news, either. Our economy is poor. Hello!

We should be encouraging businesses and help them succeed, provide jobs and feed the economy. The state should lower taxes, not raise them, and get the money back on the streets where it belongs.

A good example of state government thinking was when it received stimulus money and immediately hired new employees. Employees who, after the stimulus money ran out, would require taxation to pay their wages. Sure seems that our lawmakers don't understand what the economy is really all about. Could you run your household this way? We all can't work for the state of Oregon.

Now is the time the government must operate within a tight budget and not expect taxpayers again to bail them out and finance their re-elections. Let's help small business succeed, provide jobs and keep them in the state. Don't be coerced by the same old barnyard political claims that services must be cut back.

Watch who is making these claims. They are all from the same old bottomless pits of greed and waste, and are the first to snivel if taxes aren't increased every year or two. How will a new tax ease the burden on the middle class? Has the state ever removed any taxation from us? Let's help business succeed, provide employment and an honest, healthy economy. Don't bury Oregon's future in taxation.

'Trickle down' taxation From Steve & Flo Shepherd Selma

Some are led to believe that Measures 66 & 67 will not affect the "middle class" and that only the rich or big business will have to pay increased fees and/or taxes. Don't believe it.

Check the Voters Pamphlet under Measure 67, Section 17, Page 50. In this section, the application fee for a Notary Public Commission will increase to \$40. Sounds innocent enough. What it does not mention is the Secretary of State's office has al-

ready notified Oregon Notary Publics that effective January 2010 they may now charge up to \$10 for each Notarial act they perform (see Secretary of State Website under Notary Public).

So if Measure 67 passes, anyone who needs their signature notarized by an Oregon Notary Public could pay \$10 per signature. The increase doubles the fees currently allowed and applies to all citizens of Oregon -- not just the rich. The state charges a Notary more, the Notary charges you more.

While this may not seem like such a big deal to some, it's an example of the hidden costs to all of us that lie within Measures 66 & 67. It is simply not true that if these measures pass only big business and the rich will be affected. It always trickles down to you and me.

Don't be fooled From Marilyn Arnold O'Brien

I encourage everyone to read Page 7 and Page 47 in the Voters' Pamphlet regarding the "Estimate of financial impact" for Measures 66 & 67. It clearly states that the new taxes incurred would go directly into "the General Fund." The money would then be apportioned by the state government.

The new taxes are not allocated ahead of time -- it's just another increase for them. Don't be fooled by the commercials on television or any other advertising that pulls at your heartstrings for children's education or public services. It's just another tax to use for raises, PERS increases and payoffs to employees who should be thoroughly prosecuted but aren't -- payoffs are cheaper than trials.

We know the state has enjoyed increases for many years in a row, and don't forget that huge Rainy Day Fund. The cuts that state government and the education board need to make are at the top -- not the bottom.

Implementing creative ways to trim highly paid, upper-level management; and challenge lower-level personnel to supervise a broader sphere of subordinates and responsibilities could go a long way in making the necessary cuts the state government and education board are threatening in the media.

We can make them tighten their belts by voting "No" on Measures 66 & 67.

Clueless legislators From Lyle Woodcock Grants Pass

Those who vote "Yes" on Ballot Measures 66 & 67, better store their treasures in Heaven because our legisla-

tors don't have a clue we are in a monstrous recession.

In my opinion, they have caused the recession with unconstitutional federal and state rules and regulations. All they know is executive orders, printing more money, grants, taxation and controlling our freedoms. Take heed that ye be not deceived.

Wealth comes from ground -- mining, timber, food. Oregon's answer is blowing out our dams when facing global warming, energy shortages and water shortage creation. Without water will we starve to death? Fish can't live without water, neither can humans.

We deserve what we tolerate From James Finley Grants Pass

If we tolerate our elected politicians and representatives to pee on our leg and tell us it's raining, then that's what we deserve.

If we tolerate a government that has six lobbyists for every elected representative that we think we elected, then that's what we deserve.

If we tolerate being taxed until death and see our taxes being given to greedy and corrupt billionaires on Wall Street, then that's what we deserve.

If we tolerate ultra-conservative religious hypocrites to enter and influence our legislation with their narrow and bigoted moral convictions, then that's what we deserve.

If we tolerate every kind of fanatical hate group to pose as a religion and infect us with fear and helplessness, then that's what we deserve.



Shared Wells #5

with Bob Quinn

In general, a shared well supplies water to two or three residences. Any more than three would be considered a community water system.

Sharing a well or water system with a neighbor can be a cooperative relationship, but has been found to often cause ill feeling between the two parties. Although water is a necessity of life, we are basically greedy when it comes to when and how much we wish to use. Some problems we've seen come from splitting the power and repair bills, trying to take a shower while your neighbor is watering, or the other person has a large garden and 15 kids, or is in tight competition with Old McDonald's Farm. I'm sure you get the point.

If you become interested in acquiring a property that has a

shared well, we advise you and the other party, or parties, to reach a verbal understanding of the shared well and back it up with a written agreement.

Bob Quinn is a member of the Oregon Ground Water Association and owner of Quinn's Well Drilling and Pump Service at 6811 Williams Hwy., Grants Pass. As part of a tradition of information and service that began more than 50 years ago, these columns are provided by the firm to help take the mystery out of well drilling, and ground water. If you have a question about your well or one you are planning, please call Bob or his helpful staff for advice, estimates, or helpful information at no obligation or cost.

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