

Bob's Corner

One dictionary defines “catty” this way: “Slyly mean; saying spiteful or malicious things about somebody, especially in a subtle way.” Also, “Resembling a cat, especially in being cautious or secretive.”

Those definitions make little sense to me, and I can say that from my vantage point of us having five felines around the house. Except when they're outside hunting grasshoppers or visiting neighbors. Or doing whatever it is that “fur snakes” do when they're roaming.

I have not found kitties to be sly or malicious (well, maybe pushy), and haven't had one that's secretive. They definitely are cautious though, which is why they live so long (the nine lives legend).

We've had a large number of kit-cats during the years. Some of the names I recall: Half-shot, Peach Nuts, Maui, Boo-Boo, Runner Bean, Carrots, and Walter. Those are just the names I can remember; we've had many more whiskered friends. In fact, when we lived in rural San Diego County, we had so many cats on our semiremote half-acre that we couldn't come up with enough names. Actually, we could have called most of them “Coyote Food.”

Anyway, we recently added Tasha Tiny-Dancer to our stable. She joins sort-of Siamese Bubba (Bubba Big Foot), mostly Bombay Flinty (Flint Eastwood), Tuxedo Jelli (Jellirabbit), and Gray Tiger-Striped Scrappy (Scrappy). Tasha (Muted Calico) is our only female pet, and we're not looking forward to having her neutered, simply because we have seen so many of our four-legged buds of either gender through the recovery. But it has to be done. She'll be around 5 months old in early to mid-September, which is when the surgery is planned.

Scrappy continues to serve as her foster Dad, and he is doing a super job teaching her to be a cat. He watches her like a hawk when she's outside, or when the other furry predators get too close. This especially applies to Jelli, who is a grumpy guy; always hissing and growling at everyone else. You see, he wants to be “only cat.” Scrappy has chased him away several times, and thoroughly trounced him a few times too. But Jelli never learns.

Actually, that's about as “catty” as it gets around here; dictionary definitions notwithstanding.



(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.

**Caring Tree needs help
From Carol Ronan,
executive director,
I.V. Family Coalition**

The Caring Tree program, sponsored by Illinois Valley Family Coalition (IVFC), is entering its sixth holiday season. The program provides holiday gifts to senior and disabled persons receiving home care in Illinois Valley.

In the past, eligible participants notified IVFC of their holiday wish. IVFC advertised the event, allowing the public to help us fulfill those wishes.

Gifts and funds from the public fell short the last two years. This has required the coalition to cover the financial shortfall so that no one's wish went unanswered.

IVFC cannot fund future program shortages. In fact the coalition never intended to fund holiday gifts. The coalition's role was to match the needs of our senior and disabled residents receiving home care with help offered by others in the community.

This year, we will ask our participants to notify us of their “Unfulfilled Needs.” IVFC will work to help fill those needs that are for health, safety and comfort when the participant cannot otherwise obtain those items. Some examples of the

needs we will work to fulfill:

*Hats and scarves.

*Warm clothes such as sweaters or sweats.

*Throws or blankets (not electric blankets).

*Slippers and warm

socks.

*Pillows.

*Stamps and stationery.

The coalition will continue to ask for support from community members to either purchase the items or to make a donation to the coalition so that we can purchase the items requested.

The coalition will not fill requests that are not for the health, safety or comfort of the eligible participant.

We believe that these changes will allow us to continue to help our senior and disabled citizens receiving home care through the program in a way that is affordable to those in the community who want to help. We know that funds are limited in our community, but that there is a strong desire to help those in need.

If anyone has questions about the program or wishes to make a donation to keep this program going for this coming holiday season, contact me at 541-592-6139.

**Good-bye, America?
From Ken LeGaux
Selma**

Goodbye freedom, jobs, schools that once taught our children the foundations of life, freedom, respect and responsibility.

And as you, or at least some of us know, the bad shape that this county is in, is in part our own fault for not having paid attention.

We all get busy with life and try to do better for our-

selves and help family, friends and neighbors. But we fail to vote. Not me -- I vote every time.

And it is our responsibility to put people in office whom we believe will honestly represent us. And I believe for the most part we try very hard to do just that.

But we don't seem to keep an eye out for when they give us B.S. and try to get us to believe that they're doing the right things.

Voting is not only our right, but our responsibility. When you say your vote doesn't count, you're right -- if you don't vote.

You see, even an elephant doesn't stand a chance when he's attacked by thou-

sands of fire ants. Got it?

So join us voters not only in November, but every time that it's time to vote. Remember, together we stand, but divided we fall.

The Constitution. Have you read it? Read it. You might be surprised at what you're missing. One day you may be sorry if you don't read it. Some voted for change. Do you like it? It will only get worse if we don't wake up.

Explain things to the younger generations too. Then we can all vote to go back to American standards. Bring our jobs and industry back where it started from and put all of us back to work in America.

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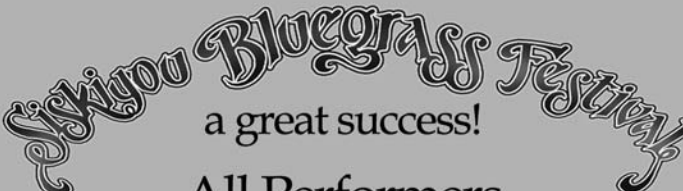
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Be cautious with e-mail appeals

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) continues to receive reports of e-mail or social networking accounts being compromised and used in a “social engineering scam to swindle consumers out of thousands of dollars.”

IC3 is a partnership between the FBI, the National White Collar Crime Center, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Here's how the latest scam works: Hackers infiltrate a social networking page, claim to be you, and write your contacts and friends. They portray themselves as “victims” robbed while traveling abroad and state that they need money immediately because they don't have a passport, money, credit cards or cell phone, and are stranded.

Some claim that they only have a few days to pay their hotel bill and promise reimbursement upon returning home. Recipients can be tempted to respond to these appeals because they appear to be from a friend, and there's a sense of urgency to help.

Those who receive a similar notice and aren't sure if it is a scam should always verify the information before sending money. If you have been a victim of this type of scam or any other cyber crime, report it to the IC3 Website at www.IC3.gov.

The IC3 database links complaints for potential referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency for consideration. Complaint information also is used to identify emerging trends and patterns.

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(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until noon Fridays with an additional charge.)

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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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