

Bob's Corner

Been awhile since ye olde publisher reminisced about his experiences in the wonderful world of news. But my memory was stirred because of an e-mail I receive almost daily. It's known as the "919 Newsletter," referring to those of us who not only worked for the no-longer-existent San Diego *Evening Tribune* in Downtown San Diego, but also including other former employees of the Union-Tribune Publishing Co.

Fellow named Jack Reber compiles the newsletter using items we "members" send, as well as his own recollections. When I worked for the U-T from 1963 to '69, I was lucky. Lucky first off, to have been hired as what were then known as copy boys, or informally, "copy kids." Today, if they still exist, they're called copy clerks.

I also was lucky to be able to show some writing ability, and was put on the editorial training program. Then I was lucky to work day and night shifts (not simultaneously), which broadened my experiences.

And finally, in a really fortuitous situation, I was assigned to various outlying U-T bureaus in Escondido, Oceanside, La Mesa and Chula Vista. That was great because the bosses were at least 20 or 30 miles away. Bureau reporters were pretty much on their own, and we also were allowed to take our own photos for breaking news or for other news stories and features.

Being a general assignment reporter was eye-opening. You would cover city councils, ship launchings, water district boards, structure and brush fires, car crashes, cat shows, dog shows, aircraft crashes, U.S. Navy ships coming home, people trapped or lost in various spots, and all sorts of the so-called "human interest" stories.

You know, people who collect fire trucks, ride their horses in parades as a career; people who shagged balls and bought oranges for Babe Ruth, men who actually drove stage coaches, blind surfers, military changes of command, a medic who removed a live grenade from a wounded soldier, and on and on. There is never a lack of such stories.

As a newsman, I know that the "major media" have taken justified criticism because we find "reporters" who don't report. They use their jobs as platforms for their views. That's not reporting.

And, of course, we at this newspaper take our own bits of flak at times. It's all in the course of what we do, although at *Illinois Valley News*, as at most weekly newspapers and some dailies, we try/we strive to present news fairly. Obviously, we're not going to please everyone all the time. That's OK, because we each know our own hearts and minds.

So we press on.

Celebrate our Valley's Abundance!
I.V. Farm and Garden Festival

**Saturday, September 11, 2010**
Jubilee Park, Cave Junction
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.



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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.

He's not voting for DeFazio From Steve Shepherd Selma

Rep. Peter DeFazio needs to go!

It is time we have different representation for the Fourth Congressional District. At the end of 2010, DeFazio will have been in office 12 terms, a total of 24 years. No one should serve in Congress for that length of time.

There is an arrogance and indifference that comes from years of unchallenged political power. It was manifested in DeFazio's health-care town hall meetings. He used a dismissive tone when answering questions he disagreed with.

He was especially smug and terse with constituents who did not accept his talking points on the health-care reform fiasco. You could see it angered him to be asked to give an accounting from people whose opinions and concerns he had no respect for.

His body language appeared to indicate that he doesn't suffer fools gladly.

And in his eyes we were those fools.

On DeFazio's Congressional Website, there is a debt clock showing the monstrous and unsustainable debt that Congress continues racking up. At one time, the site specified what a family's share of the national debt was, but those numbers are no longer there. I guess that amount was too distressing.

While DeFazio's "debt clock" is spinning out of control, he obediently follows Speaker Pelosi's lead, raising the debt by billions and trillions with no end in sight. Congress continues to initiate more expensive power-grabbing programs, with more regulations and more unelected faceless bureaucrats to administer them.

There is no debate or discussion about the long-term consequences of the Communist Chinese paying for out-of-control Congressional spending. The piper will have to be paid, and that time is coming soon!

The political aristocracy in Congress has been allowed to live in the rarefied air of Washington far too long. The lack of accountability has created an environment of contempt for constituents. Politicians have rigged the political system to protect incumbents and make it impossible for challengers to defeat them. Career politicians will never allow Congressional term limits.

The Founding Fathers created Congress as a body of citizen legislators, not as a

lifetime political career. The political class won't voluntarily relinquish its grasp on power. So that leaves it up to us as voters to initiate term limits at the ballot box.

Politicians need to be taught the lesson they have forgotten or just choose to ignore. They are our servants; we are not theirs. It is time to hold them accountable. For that reason, Rep. Peter DeFazio needs to go.

Bouquet for concerts From Christine Perala Gardiner Cave Junction

I appreciate Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce and all the supporters of the concert series in Jubilee Park this summer. I'm so glad that I finally went to hear the music. Each evening was delightful, while each band was unique and well-suited for family fun.

This concert series adds real culture and fun to Cave Junction for free, and I wanted to say how much I enjoyed it.

I'm already looking forward to the concerts next

summer. The chamber deserves recognition for bringing live music to our town.

USA hungry spider From George McElroy Cave Junction

In an all-encompassing spider's web, picture the people whose sole purpose is to supply the spider with sustenance provided by their labor. The spider grows larger each year because it demands more each year.

The spider is the USA -- a corporation. How did we get caught in this web?

Americans will never tolerate changing the Constitution; therefore many statutes were passed to change our Natural Man and Woman status to that of a merchant involved in limited liability for profit or gain.

Trading with the Enemy Act 1917 and the Amendatory Act of March 1933. We have no personal rights at law in any court and all rights of an enemy (all American citizens are all declared enemies) to sue in the courts are suspended ... For the Public
(Continued on page 3)

I.V. High School to replace Higgins as athletics director

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A new job has lured Mark Higgins away from his position of athletic director (A.D.) at Illinois Valley High School, but Principal JoAnn Bethany said that she hopes to have a replacement hired well before the start of the 2010-11 school year.

Higgins, who will change to Fleming Middle School, lives in Grants Pass. He has spent the past seven years at IVHS. In late July, he accepted the position of Fleming assistant principal and A.D.

"Mark went back and got his administrative credentials in the last few years, and was ready to have that opportunity to move forward in his career," Bethany said. "It was time for him to move forward with that."

The principal said that interviews for the IVHS A.D. position will occur this week, with Friday, Aug. 20, as the targeted hiring date. The posi-

tion also includes teaching duties, as Higgins taught business classes.

"Our first preference is to have a teacher who is endorsed to teach business classes," said Bethany. "That way, there will be no disruption to our schedule.

"We certainly need someone with solid coaching experience and who is very familiar with the rules and regulations of athletics."

If the application process yields no business teachers, Bethany said that the school would consider hiring someone who could teach other elective classes.

Daily doubles for fall sport athletes will begin Aug. 31, Bethany said, and the first day of school is Sept. 7. However, she added that Higgins still will be involved at IVHS until then.

"We have everything laid out and ready to go," she said. "We're in good shape. We'll be fine; there won't be any balls dropped."

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