

Guest Opinion

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a deposit of \$26 and send an application to them. The application contains all the info one needs. Instead they focus on your credit and their word is FINAL.

ARE THEY TRYING TO GET EVEN WITH ME? When I called regarding the disconnect notice, I was told they had not received ANY payment from me. The clerk told me online payments were often screwed up (not true). Even after I got my online bill paying company rep. on a 3-way call to her, she insisted they had never received a check from them, even after he verified that it had been deposited to their bank. She insisted a copy be faxed to her (at my expense). Not only were the rep and I being called

liars, I had to pay or do without electricity. It's absurd to have to pay a \$25 connection fee when I am already connected and then \$40 for another connection fee when they stop service for not paying a connection fee and then pay an electricity bill I have already paid. However, I can't do without electricity as I need nebulizer medication for my lungs. I paid it.

THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL STORY. The clerk called me back. She said they found the payment which had been credited to my son and, since his account was closed, they had issued a refund check to him at my address for the amount I paid. It was in the mail. Why? My payment to them was in my name, the account was in my name, and by

now they knew who Mary Sykes is, but since the account number on the check was my son's closed account they refunded my money to him.

Why didn't they call me for clarification instead of sending a disconnect notice? And who is being disingenuous here? The check cleared their bank on August 2. The refund check (supposedly in the mail) was dated August 19, the day AFTER I called them! Sounds like revenge to me.

Yesterday I received a message that they were going to credit the 38 cents late fee. Whoopdeedoo! They even changed my "late payment" credit rating status from a 3 to a 2. It should be a 1. I have never been late. Moreover, no mention was made of a pend-

ing board hearing. You see, to appeal to the board one has to make an appointment through WOE; one can't simply show up to a meeting and raise Cain. That is what I was told. At least I won't need an appointment now. I'm certain all the board members will read this. Had I attended, I suspect they would have rubber-stamped administration's recommendations as they always do.

I am not trying to get special treatment. I paid the \$25 connect fee on my rental unit. However, because of the above circumstance and the change was within a family, I hoped they would waive the fee on my residential unit. Instead, the front-desk ruled and threatened to disconnect weeks after I joined.

It's not the \$25. It's the way I was treated. Members have no recourse. There is no state authority like the PUC to appeal to. The board? Has anyone heard of someone taking an issue to them and winning? They take great pride in saying it is member-owned. So I take this to The Independent to start dialogue with members. Do we REALLY have to pay 2 to 3 times as much as other utilities in our area? There are many issues with WOE and I will address them in my next letter. Until we owners quit being so complacent, nothing will change. Who knows, perhaps we can make a difference and someday the members will rule and we can put the C back in WOE!

Ike Says . . .

From page 3

professional hunters, whichever term is to your liking. They will not be allowed to guide sportsmen on the cougar hunts, their main mission will be to track down and kill a certain number

of cougars in the different regions of the state as determined by ODF&W biologists and the cougar plan. This is allowed under the current state statutes, even the use of dogs to track down the cougars is al-

lowed under these provisions. What will not be allowed is the use of sportsmen in this cougar reduction plan, other than the normal harvest that has already been established since the dog ban was voted on by the public. The plan's goal is to reduce the cougar population by about 2,000 cougars from the estimated 5,000 cougars currently living in Oregon. The plan also specifically points out that the female population will be targeted for additional harvest to slow the growth potential and the existing imbalance in the cougar population. Females with kittens will be allowed to be harvested, while sportsmen will still be banned from taking females with kittens. The goal of the cougar population reduction plan is to reduce the population to a level that will allow deer, elk, sheep and other wildlife to reach higher population levels and thus higher sportsmen harvests in the future. This all falls under the guidance given to the ODF&W

commission.

So what are the points of contention? First the camp that wants the cougar population to self-regulate is not going to be happy at all, this is understandable. Yet, not all is well in the sportsmen camp either. First is the major policy shift to use contract hunters to manage a big game population. This may have major ramifications in the future that will have major impacts on sportsmen's role as the sole tool to manage wildlife in the state of Oregon. The second is that not all sportsmen are sold on the harvest of females with kittens. With the use of dogs, it is not necessary to harvest females with kittens since the status of the females can be ascertained prior to harvest in most cases. While it will mean that the contract hunters will have to work harder to target females without kittens, it is the ethical thing to do. Lastly, the cougar plan is doing what the sportsmen were doing before the ban on the use of dogs;

for many sportsmen the solution is simple, repeal the ban.

There are several things that will stand in the way of implementation of the cougar plan. First the commissioners will have to agree to implement. Then there is mounting pressure to get the governor involved, especially since he just turned down a plan to reestablish the use of dogs by sportsmen. Then the legislature will have to allocate funding for the contract hunters. The last will probably be another ballot measure to close the loophole that is being used.

Personally I have no problem with reducing the cougar population, either we are going to have cougars and little deer and elk or we can intervene and we can have some cougars and elevated deer and elk populations. I do have a problem of eliminating sportsmen as the sole tool to manage wildlife in our state. Secondly, I do have a problem with harvesting female cougars with kittens; I just don't think this is ethical or socially acceptable. It will be interesting to see how this all plays out.

Remembered Joy

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free!

I follow the plan God made for me.

I saw his face, I heard his call,

I took his hand and left it all...

I could not stay another day,

To love, to laugh, to work or play;

Tasks left undone must stay that way.

And if my parting has left a void,

Then fill it with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss...

Ah yes, these things I, too will miss.

My life's been full, I've savored much;

Good times, good friends, a loved-ones touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief -

Don't shorten yours with undue grief.

Be not burdened with tears of sorrow,

Enjoy the sunshine of the morrow.

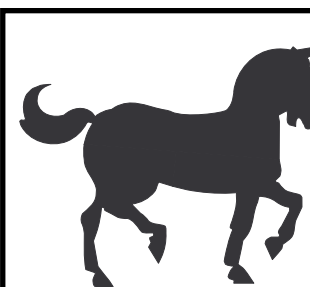
This best describes how Johnny B would want to be remembered.

We, the Family of Johnny B, Thank you. May your day be touched by a bit of Irish luck, brightened by a song in your heart, and warmed by the smile of the people who love you.

Jo Ann,

Deb & family, Jill & family,

Dawn & family, John II & family



**Mike James
Horseshoeing
503-755-0305**

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
REFERENCES AVAILABLE



Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter
meets on the third Thursday
of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Call 503-429-7193 for loca-
tion of meeting.