

Crime ring

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patrols. He also encouraged residents to join the sheriff's volunteer program. There is currently one volunteer from the Cave Junction area, he said.

After some discussion about that possibility, as well as some tense and angry comments pointed at the sheriff, it was decided that a citizen committee would be formed.

Mayor Ed Faircloth took down names of those who would be interested in joining CJ citizens patrols.

Faircloth also noted that Auburn's hours would be adjusted to allow for better patrol times.

A follow-up meeting regarding the citizens' committee will likely be planned for after the Labor Day holiday.

- Britt Fairchild contributed to this story.



DRILLS -- Illinois Valley High School head varsity football coach Bob Thornhill leads members of his offense through drills Monday at IVHS (photo above). Quarterback Josh Coronado makes a pitch during play drills (photo left). The Cougars open their season Friday, Aug. 29 at Reedsport. (Photos by Steve Fairchild)

All is quiet in CJ during a late night C-FAC patrol

By STEVE FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

It's 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 22 and two members of Concerned Fathers Against Crime (C-FAC) are giving me a ride in a pickup truck for a patrol of Cave Junction to keep an eye out for suspicious behavior.

The two men, Darryl and Bruce, (it is the organization's policy to not disclose their last names in print) move over and give me a spot on the bench seat.

For the next two hours we talk about everything from honeymoons, Oregon Caves National Monument, job history, the economy, crime and family.

This is the first time the two men have been sent to the city of CJ.

The group is based in Grants Pass and has approximately 300 members who work in eight-week rotations.

Founded to stop crime in Grants Pass, C-FAC has made a dent, according to Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel, who invited the organization to patrol Illinois Valley when several businesses here were broken into and vandalized during the last several months.

On his lap, Darryl holds a scanner so he can listen to any calls sheriff's deputies respond to, and offer assistance on, if needed.

During my time with them we don't see any sheriff's vehicles or hear calls on the scanner.

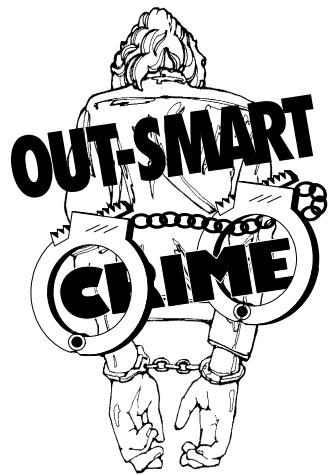
The policy of C-FAC is to make its presence felt in the community.

Members doing the rounds in pairs are instructed to patrol the area in their vehicle and report any suspicious activity to police.

They are not supposed to get involved; just be the "eyes and ears" of law en-

forcement.

Deputies receive a fax in the evening that C-FAC patrols will be out. They



receive the names of the men and a description of their vehicles.

The truck we are riding in is loud and conspicuous. To the average citizen, we look like three average guys driving around town.

We drive past just about every section of town -- behind Shop Smart

Food Warehouse, through Jubilee Park, around Junction Inn, behind the high school, through Laurel Cemetery, behind and around several churches, around businesses on Caves Hwy., on an ally behind downtown businesses, by the post office, through residential neighborhoods, by Evergreen Elementary School and through several other places in the valley.

We're equipped with a flashlight so we can "light up" anybody that is acting suspicious.

During the night we see few suspicious people. There are some teenagers sitting on the curb drinking what looks like soda near Speedy Mart, and a couple of cars that stop as the drivers communicate with each other. Besides that, it is a quite night in Cave Junction, just like it should be.

I say "goodbye" and wish Darryl and Bruce good luck for the rest of their night.

They will continue to patrol the town until an undisclosed time. C-FAC members are scheduled to patrol CJ and nearby areas at least two nights per week.

'Concerned Fathers' help fight crime

By STEVE FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

For seven years a group known as Concerned Fathers Against Crime (C-FAC) has been sending its members on late night patrols to help decrease crime in Grants Pass and outlying areas.

With a policy of complete non-involvement, members travel in pairs with a scanner and a cell phone to provide extra pairs of eyes and ears to law enforcement.

According to Terall Blalock, one of the founding members of C-FAC, the group shares a common bound of wanting to keep the community free of crime for its upstanding citizens.

"We choose as fathers to look after our community and take ownership of our parks and schools," Blalock said.

When Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel asked Blalock to lend a hand to Cave Junction following a rash of burglaries in the area, C-FAC didn't hesitate.

"We're extending our love to Illinois Valley to a bunch of folks who don't know us," he said.

Recently during public meetings, business owners, city officials and citizens have complained about the lack of law enforcement in the city.

Cave Junction contracts with the sheriff's office to have one deputy in CJ for 40 hours a week. Deputies are also loaned to the community as needed as a regular part of the sheriff's coverage of the county.

Blalock has patrolled I.V. at least once since C-FAC began its patrols the first weekend of August. He said he is surprised at the vulnerability of the town.

"We observe a lot of activity at night more than I thought we would," he said. "Your community is very different at 1 a.m. It's quite obvious that it is very vulnerable (to crime)."

All the members of C-FAC are carefully screened by the sheriff's office and undergo a background check and informal training.

On any given night there can be one to four cars out on the road, or none at all. Only the police and C-FAC know, and it keeps the criminals guess-

ing, according to C-FAC.

So far, the program has been a success. From writing down license plates numbers of suspicious vehicles, to testifying in court, C-FAC is helping to save the community from crime.

"C-FAC is a real good group. They do a bang up job for us," Daniel said. "I'm hoping we can get some recruiting out there (in I.V.) with C-FAC. As short-handed as we are, we need all the help we can get."

C-FAC is also looking into using hand-held video cameras and helping businesses with video surveillance.

C-FAC founder and president Bob Just was the brainchild behind C-FAC. He developed the group under the direction of former Josephine County Sheriff Dan Calvert in 1994.

Once a man is trained as a C-FAC member, he usually becomes more aware of his community even when he is not on patrol, Blalock said.

For more information on the Concerned Fathers Against Crime, visit the Web at www.c-fac.org.

KICK OFF LABOR DAY!

IVHS Football Program Benefit
Thursday, Aug. 28 - 6 p.m.
Taylor's Sausage Country Store

Hot dog, fries & salad - \$4
Hamburger, fries & salad - \$6
Steak, fries & salad - \$8

***Stand-up Mic' Night**
***Entertainment**
***Raffles**

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Home Valley Bank & Taylor's Sausage Country Store

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(Public service announcement)

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Ages: 2 to 5
**A boy accuses his friend of taking his doll T-Rex,
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Adults - \$7.50
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Children - FREE

Attention Salsaholics!

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Help support the Illinois Valley High School football team and other school sports programs.