

Established 1937

Illinois Valley News



Wednesday, October 13, 2004, 4 Sections, 33 Pages, Volume 67 No. 30 Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

Single Copy 50-cents



HAUNTED CORN MAZE - At Kerbyville Farm in Kerby, just in time for the Halloween season, a haunted corn maze with 'scary' features is open. It's available for a small fee per person for children and adults. (Top

photo, from left) members of the Hart Family, Jessica, 16; Amy, 12; Jacob, 5; Austin, 10. (Bottom left) One of the features near the entrance to the maze, and (bottom right) Austin Hart inside the maze.



'I don't want to see anyone's baby die'

CJ mom on crusade for guardrails where her son died on Hwy. 199

Joshua Allen, 22, was headed home to Cave Junction from work on Hwy. 199 in a company pickup truck.

A 2000 graduate of Illinois Valley High School, he was engaged to be married.

He was 21 days from his 23rd birthday.

"Josh" died July 7 when the crumple he was driving, owned by Hanson Logging, went off the highway near milepost 23 and was demolished.

Now his mother is on a crusade to have guardrails installed by Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT).

"I don't want to see anyone else's baby die," said his mother, Cori Allen, 45. "No one deserves it. I'm not looking for a lawsuit or anything like that. Let's just say that mama wants guardrails."

Her son was engaged to Amanda Allen (no relation), and their child, Shelby, was 3 months old.

Cori Allen began her quest for guardrails only recently, as it's taken awhile to recover from the shock of the death.

She, like many valley residents, is aware that the portion of Hwy. 199 in the Gold Canyon/milepost 23 area is notorious for motor vehicle crashes.

Using files of "Illinois Valley News," she's researching the incidence of crashes, many of which have involved deaths or serious injuries.

She plans to take her findings to ODOT to demonstrate the need for guardrails. Although she still is checking data, she believes that a federal law was passed in 1998 to require guardrails alongside any embankment at least 4 feet high.

She is aware that a family in Crescent City,

Calif. petitioned ODOT for a guardrail several years ago after a head-on collision. Because of the collision and subsequent fire, four people died.



CORI ALLEN

And we know of many accidents in that area," said Cori, including a toxic chemical spill involving a tanker truck in 2000; plus the deaths of a number of valley residents and others.

She's researching data from 1998 because that's when she believes the guardrails law was enacted.

"I'm not coming down on the state or Roger Hanson," she said. "I just want guardrails, and it's worth my trying with ODOT to make it happen."

She noted that her family moved to the valley from Alturas, Calif. seven years ago. "Josh" entered IVHS as a sophomore, and he worried that he'd never have any friends.

But at his memorial service at Rough & Ready Park, more than 300 people turned out.

"Josh" has a sister, Mechelle Northrup, 26, in Cave Junction. And his father, Darrell Allen, also lives in CJ.

People with information or questions about accidents in the noted area of Hwy. 199, or related information can reach Cori at 592-6391.

Artist Laurie grinning, bearing it

Illinois Valley artist Alan Laurie finds a certain notoriety quite bearable.

In fact, he's bearing quite well the news that his Cubist Cub, part of this year's BearFest in Downtown Grants Pass, is the only one from the event to be donated to the Grants Pass Museum of Art, or otherwise chosen for display in an art location.

Laurie, "a starving artist" responsible for many logos and the like in and around Illinois Valley, said that he's also pleased with the response of other artists in BearFest.

"The other artists picked my Cubist Cub as their favorite," he said, "and that made me feel quite pleased."

Since moving to the valley from Seattle in 2001, Laurie has created logos and signs for Coffee Heaven, I.V. Arts Council, Barter Faire, Oregon Cultural Trust, Hathkapasuta (the river celebration), Josephine County Fair, Jefferson State Financial Group, and Oregon Caves National Monument.

Last year he was responsible for the I.V. Artists calendar for I.V. Family Coalition, and another artistic endeavor for the CJ Skate Park.

He also came up with the cartoon map of the valley, a project developed by Jack Heald of HOVA, (Hwy. One-99 Visitors Association).

During his years as an

artist, Laurie has won numerous awards in fine arts and graphic arts.

Laurie, who describes himself as a fine arts and graphic artist, was born in Washington state. He also has worked in his field in Los Angeles.

Regarding BearFest, Laurie noted that after the auction of its bears late last month, auctioneer Wayne Liska paid for and donated Laurie's Cubist Cub to the GP Museum of Art.

Vickie Killion, assistant marketing director at Evergreen Federal Bank that sponsored BearFest, said, "We think that's wonderful because it means the public will continue to enjoy the little Picasso bear."



A Cubist Bear created by Cave Junction artist Alan Laurie (above), with his dog 'River' was honored by being selected for permanent display in the Grants Pass Museum of Art.

Lack of quorum cancels council

Due to lack of a quorum, the Cave Junction City Council meeting set for Monday night, Oct. 11 was canceled.

City Recorder Jim Polk indicated that the situation likely occurred because Monday, as Columbus Day, was a holiday for some.

As was his language, so was his life.

- Seneca -

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Oct. 13
Sunny and breezy
High--84, Low--41.



Thursday, Oct. 14
Abundant sunshine
High--83, Low--42.



Friday, Oct. 15
Sunny and pleasant
High--77, Low--39.



Saturday, Oct. 16
Mostly sunny
High--72, Low--40.



Sunday, Oct. 17
Partially cloudy
High--68, Low--39.



Monday, Oct. 18
Possible showers
High--63, Low--29.



Tuesday, Oct. 19
Partly cloudy
High--60, Low--25.



Homecoming under way

Homecoming 2004 is under way at Illinois Valley High School, and includes a football game on Friday, Oct. 15.

The Cougars will face Rogue River on the new IVHS field at 7 p.m.

A highlight of the game will be introduction of the homecoming court and announcement of the homecoming queen at the game half.

In addition, the annual Spirit Parade from IVHS to Downtown Cave Junction is planned for Friday.

Indications are that it will begin not long after lunch, which will end at 1:12 p.m.

The homecoming dance will be held in the school cafeteria on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 8 p.m. to midnight.

A number of other events were planned for this week, including special dress-up days, a bon fire on Tuesday night, Oct. 12; a powder puff football game (for girls) Wednesday evening; and a power buff volleyball game (for boys) on Friday.

A public forum to meet and hear the four candidates seeking two seats on the Josephine County Board of Commissioners will be held Wednesday, Oct. 20 at Lorna Byrne Middle School. See the ad on page 2.