

Students get safety views from IVFD

A “Hazard House” presentation -- the first at a school site -- was given at Dome School in Takilma on Thursday, Oct. 21.

The presentation was by Firefighters De Spellman and Many Smiles, of Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD). Spellman also serves as IVFD’s fire prevention coordinator.

IVFD Fire Marshal Jerry Schaeffer purchased the “Hazard House” to help teach children the importance of general safety awareness. It’s approximately 4 feet wide and 18 inches tall.

Developed by Model Tech in Quebec, Canada, it is designed to demonstrate multiple hazards and solutions in everyday living environments.

There are more than 50 scenes depicting different hazard scenarios and their solutions.

Using a small control panel, a demonstrator can reproduce hazards inside and outside the home while discussing the causes and solutions.

The house has everything from a child in a tub using a radio, to a man sleeping in his recliner with a lit cigar.

Areas including rural hazards, swimming safety, fire safety, power line safety, and safety in and out of homes are included. A grant and \$500 from I.V. Volunteer Firefighters Association was used to obtain the \$7,000 interactive model.

To schedule a class or group demonstration phone 592-2225.



Pvt. 1st Class Travis Pernicka-Davenport, 19, and (from left) his brother Drake, 13; his best friend Eddie Stokes, 18; and his parents, Donna and Mike Pernicka.

Endangerment checked

A rural Grants Pass care-giver was arrested by Josephine County Sheriff’s Office on marijuana charges, and additional charges regarding endangerment are being referred to the district attorney.

Arrested was Robert Todd Rossiter, 42, of 10063 Monument Drive.

He was charged with possession, manufacture and delivery of marijuana.

The sheriff’s office said that on Thursday, Oct. 21 Senior Services asked for assistance with a welfare check. There had been reports that the care-giver “routinely locked the client in the residence, creating

an unsafe condition for the client.”

At the residence, deputies “immediately detected a strong odor of fresh green marijuana.” Deputies were then joined by detectives of the Josephine Interagency Narcotics Team.

According to the sheriff’s office: As deputies knocked on the door and announced themselves, voices were heard inside. One voice said, ‘No, it hurts,’ and there were sounds of a struggle.

Deputies forced open the door and discovered marijuana drying from lines strung across the living room.

Young man’s perspective changes; heads to Iraq with National Guard

By CHRISTINA HILL Correspondent

One young man’s perspective on life changed completely after joining the Army National Guard.

“Life’s definitely not the same now then when I went in,” said Pvt. 1st Class Travis Pernicka-Davenport, who has been home visiting before deployment.

Davenport, 19, joined the Guard in June 2003, during his senior year of high school, and engaged in several weekend training sessions. After graduating from Illinois Valley High School this past June, he was shipped out to Fort Benning in Georgia for basic training.

“Basic kind of messed me up,” he said. “Civilian life and everything is different now.

“The drill sergeants had total control. There was a lot of yelling all the time. We were not allowed to smile or talk; everything always had to be perfect, and we always had to have our boots shining.” Despite “hard and

tense” training, Davenport said that he “understands it now. It’s just a lot of discipline,” he said.

And, he’ll be putting his discipline and new skills to the test soon.

“I volunteered to go fight in Iraq,” said Davenport. “I’d rather go when the training is still fresh in my mind, and not go in a few years and lose half my training.”

His parents, Mike and Donna Pernicka, who are “proud of him,” have hung yellow ribbons outside their Downtown Cave Junction business, Puff ‘N’ Stuff, as a sign of support for their son and U.S. troops.

They drove to Fort Benning for his graduation ceremony, and his mom bought a professionally shot video of the event.

“I was too emotional to get my own,” she said.

Davenport, now attached to Delta Dragons 1-186, said that he decided on a military hitch “to do something with my life.”

For the next 14 to 18 months, he’ll be in Iraq as

a mortars man.

“I’m not sure exactly when I’ll be leaving, but it’ll be soon,” he said. “I won’t be up on the front line, but I’ll be hanging back, blowing stuff up when I get the order.”

Despite the thought of war, Davenport said that he’s not stressing about it.

“I can take care of myself,” he said. “I’m excited to see the different parts of the world.”

Since joining the Guard, Davenport has already been to Georgia, Texas and all over Oregon. But he’ll be visiting Iraq for the first time.

Davenport moved from California to the valley in 1996 with his parents and younger brother, who is also involved with the Guard.

He said that he enjoys hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, working on his truck and driving his car.

However, during the next year or two, he will be sacrificing everything and putting his life on the line to dutifully serve his country with honor.

Lots of free stuff at Good Neighbor event

Lots of free information and help about health, legal issues, employment and housing will be available on Friday, Oct. 29.

The Good Neighbor Project is sponsoring a “One-Stop Shopping” event on Friday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

Free transportation

will be provided by Josephine County Transit from its bus stops.

There also will be free clothing, a free lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and free haircuts.

The following also will be available, according to an announcement: drug and alcohol information, health insights, help with legal issues, and data

on driving records.

Also, counseling on employment opportunities, information about housing; and facts about the rights of those with disabilities, tenants and housing issues, and employee situations.

Remember to return your ballots by 8 p.m., Tuesday Nov. 2.

JIM RAFFENBURG

Candidate • Josephine County Commissioner • Position 2

The Courier has refused to print this letter

October 15, 2004

Letters to the Editor
Dennis Roler
Grants Pass Daily Courier
409 SE 7th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Dear Mr. Roler,

I’m writing this letter to clear up any confusion the story published by the Daily Courier on October 14, 2004, may have created. I find myself wondering why the Courier would publish a story that questioned my honesty and integrity, when the Courier had already confirmed my background statements in the Voters’ Pamphlet were true. It would be unfortunate for our community’s sense of fairness if voters were to conclude the story was directly connected to the Courier’s endorsement of my opponent in this election.

To review, the complaint by Mike Walker and the Hugo PAC questioned the accuracy of the information provided for the 2004 Oregon Voters’ Pamphlet regarding my past experience. To wit:

Regarding NASA:

NASA is a hybrid government/contractor organization. The vast majority of NASA workers are contractor employees, supervised by Civil Service career employees. In my case, that contractor was IDG Architects. However, the projects I managed were NASA projects, not IDG contracts. I reported to NASA Civil Service Project Managers. In July, I provided the Courier with multiple items of documentation, including: W-2 form; Letter of Promotion from Construction Administrator to Field Manager of NASA construction projects (which also defined my job responsibilities); Letters of Commendation from NASA for my work as Field Manager of the High Pressure Air Storage Project; Cover page from my original Security Clearance Form 85 showing me as a contractor employee of NASA Ames Research Center; Business I.D. card showing my name, title, and NASA Ames address. The Courier confirmed to me on October 13, 2004 that they had informed Mike Walker of these facts, prior to Mr. Walker’s filing of the complaint, yet Mr. Walker and the Hugo PAC asserted in the complaint they could not confirm I had worked for NASA. How can that be?

Regarding Court Mediation:

Prior to publishing the story, the Courier had contacted the Coordinator of the Josephine County Dispute Resolution Program. At that time, she confirmed to the Courier the information I provided in the Voter’s Pamphlet was accurate. I had already provided the Courier with a letter from Josephine County Community Justice, which conclusively stated that I was qualified under the requirements established by the Oregon Dispute Resolution Commission for Court Panel Mediators [ORS 36.175 (5) and 36.200 (1)] and also for Civil Case Mediators [OAR 718-040-0040, and 0070, 0080, 0100, 0110].

To meet those requirements, you must have mediated cases for the courts, which I have done over the past three years, including two cases during this election campaign. My statement in the Voters Pamphlet merely shows that I was a court mediator working on behalf of Josephine County. It is Mike Walker who has incorrectly claimed that I said I was “The” Court Mediator.

Regarding Citizen Involvement Coordinator:

The Courier has also confirmed to me they contacted the Director of the Josephine County Planning Department prior to publishing the story, who confirmed the accuracy of my statements in the Voters Pamphlet. The facts are also a matter of Public Record. Josephine County Ordinance 93-13 expanded the role of the Rural Planning Commission (RPC), conveying to it the title of Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC), with the assigned responsibility of administering the Citizen Involvement Program (CIP). I was either Chair or Vice-Chair of the Rural Planning Commission from 1997-2003 and in addition was elected by the RPC to Chair the CIC. The CIC later changed that title from Chair to Coordinator to better define the respective roles of the leadership of the RPC/CIC. Mr. Walker testified many times before both the RPC and the CIC, while I was Chair, Vice-Chair or Coordinator. He had direct experience and knowledge of my position of responsibility. How is it he could not then verify that fact for himself?

Regarding a Personal Matter:

There is one other point I want to address at this time. In 1984, just prior to my maternal grandfather’s death, at his request, I promised to take on our family surname of Raffenburg, to keep it from passing into history. I had been raised with the last name of my father, who I never knew. His last name was Terry. Last July, when the Courier first questioned me about my employment history, I provided the Courier with the Josephine County Circuit Court document showing my legal name change in 1991.

Regarding Mike Walker and the Hugo PAC:

Prior to filing his complaint, Mike Walker told at least one County resident, that he knew about my name change. He cannot use my name change as an excuse for not being able to verify my records. It is also important to note that the Courier story indicated Mr. Walker said his group investigated Commissioner Candidate backgrounds. I did not receive a single inquiry from Mr. Walker or anyone else from his PAC requesting verification or other information of any kind. If Mr. Walker and his PAC were in fact interested in the truth, why didn’t they come to me with their questions? I believe a reasonable person would have to believe truth was not the goal.

It is interesting the Courier felt it was necessary to list the potential penalties for making false statements in the Voters Pamphlet when the Courier had already verified my statements in the Voters Pamphlet were true. It is also important to point out that our legal system provides for civil consequences relating to defamation of character, slander and libel, as well as criminal consequences for deliberate, calculated interference in the electoral process.

It is obvious that misinformation, “spin” and character assassination have become an ugly part of the political landscape this election cycle. All of us, including reporters, editors, candidates and elected officials, must remember that an accurately informed electorate makes good decisions. I trust that the people of Josephine County are able to distinguish between what is true and what is not.

Respectfully yours,

Jim Raffenburg
Candidate for Josephine County Commissioner Position 2

www.jimraffenburg.com

It’s time for...

It’s time for...

It’s time for...

Leadership.

Results.

Change.

If you want to see real change in how our County Government operates, please join us in this campaign effort. YOU can be a force for this Positive CHANGE. Become informed. Become involved. Vote Jim Raffenburg for County Commissioner.

Thank you.



Paid for by the “Committee to Elect Jim Raffenburg Commissioner”
PO Box 293 Grants Pass, OR 97528