

## Bob's Corner

It's time to talk turkey, to get to the point and gobble a sumptuous Thanksgiving meal. Actually, the editor is (to overkill on word usage) just a little tiny bit frazzled. Why? Mostly because it's been cold and rainy, and I'm getting cranky.

Still, there is much to be thankful for, and I'm not about to forget my blessings. A fine family; great wife; terrific *Noose* staff; plenty to eat in a warm place. Plus a beautiful community, and a memory that still works well (mostly).

And now, because I'm taking sort of a break, here is some material that arrived via email. Read it, and have a pleasant day remembering the travails of the Pilgrims and their connection to the people they encountered:

"Thanksgiving can mean the ideal family get-together or a day of awkward moments, uncomfortable silences and eruptions of family feuds. Here are Debra Fine's Top 10 Conversation Landmines (from her book, *The Fine Art of Small Talk*, published by Hyperion):

1. "Are you two ever going to get married?"
2. "No, thanks. I gave up drinking after I saw the toll it took on you."
3. "When are you two going to make me a grandmother?"
4. "Cool Whip is interesting. Did you ever think of serving the real stuff instead?"
5. "Aren't you full yet?" -- or, "Why aren't you eating anything?"
6. "Yes, I know you're a parent. But haven't you ever thought about working?"
7. "I see you still can't be bothered with ironing a blouse."
8. "How is it that your son looks just like you, and your daughter looks like she could be from a different family?"
9. "Did you cook this yourself, or did you just thaw it out?"
10. "Forget this poison nonsense" -- just spread the turkey's legs open and jam in the stuffing "the way that I always do."



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## Weather Watch

### Cave Junction

**Wednesday, Nov. 21**  
Sunny and cold  
High--48 Low--21

**Thursday, Nov. 22**  
Continued cold and clear  
High--48 Low--22

**Friday, Nov. 23**  
Some sun with clouds  
High--50 Low--23

**Saturday, Nov. 24**  
Mostly cloudy with some sun  
High--51 Low--27

**Sunday, Nov. 25**  
Some clouds then clearing later  
High--45 Low--40

**Monday, Nov. 26**  
Warming with plenty of sun  
High--60 Low--39

**Tuesday, Nov. 27**  
More sunshine and warmth  
High--61 Low--39

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.

\*Fri., Nov. 9 57 - 42  
\*Sat., Nov. 10 59 - 42 0.43  
\*Sun., Nov. 11 50 - 36  
\*Mon., Nov. 12 55 - 38 1.30  
\*Tue., Nov. 13 54 - 36 0.12  
\*Wed., Nov. 14 55 - 36  
\*Thurs., Nov. 15 57 - 50

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in Cave Junction at Natural Designs Farm.

\*Fri., Nov. 9 60 - 35  
\*Sat., Nov. 10 61 - 40 0.43  
\*Sun., Nov. 11 53 - 36 0.01  
\*Mon., Nov. 12 55 - 37 1.28  
\*Tue., Nov. 13 54 - 36 0.05  
\*Wed., Nov. 14 57 - 36 0.01  
\*Thurs., Nov. 15 61 - 49 0.02

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## Legal challenge puts brakes on city LID discussion

By WALLY AIKEN  
For IVN

A Local Improvement District (LID) affecting the north end of the city of Cave Junction was slated for discussion during Tuesday night's, Nov. 13 city council meeting, but once again was pulled from the agenda.

This time the delay was due to a legal challenge by the Versteeg Family Trust LLC. The trust, which owns nearly 25 acres in the LID, is represented in the action by the legal firm of Hornecker,

Cowling, Hassen, and Hey-sell LLP, of Medford.

According to a letter dated Nov. 6 and received by City Recorder Jim Polk, the law firm stated, "Given the serious legal shortcomings of the proposed Local Improvement District, we strongly suggest forwarding these materials to the city attorney and obtaining an opinion before proceeding." Polk stated that the council will review the material and explore their options.

The letter goes on to list

the perceived deficiencies in the LID proposal.

First, the letter states that an LID can only be used to fund improvements "undertaken by a local government." The project in question has been undertaken by the Oregon Dept. of Transportation and has been financed in part by developers of commercial and residential projects.

The city has had no part in the planning; and therefore, according to the law firm, the statutory obligations have not

been met.

Next it is claimed that the city consistently has failed to follow proper procedures required to establish an LID. Specifically the city engineer is required by law to complete a survey and file a written report, which to date has not been completed.

The letter also claims that notification requirements were not met in that city ordinances require that notification must be posted in two publications, one week apart.

(Continued on page 3)

## Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact, are strictly those of the letter-writers.)

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Typed, double-spaced letters written solely to this newspaper 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.

### Illinois Valley Lions Club gets heartfelt recognition From Ray Karczewski Cave Junction

When in need, the Illinois Valley Lions Club is here for us.

My wife, Anita, and I recently underwent another life transition. As seniors, on our 49th anniversary I went in search of a wheelchair to assist her in getting around.

Where does one go to secure a wheelchair? To St. George of course -- that is, St. George McElroy of Holland Store. His solution to my problem: the Illinois Valley Lions Club.

St. George put me in touch with St. Sam (Michel, that is) of I.V. Lions Club. He took care of my every need, free of charge, with the blessings of the club.

Compassion, care and assistance still live in our community via I.V. Lions. I am grateful for their generosity and community service.

If only our society would be affected by such contagious altruism, we would have a different world. When I think of service, I shall think of Illinois Valley Lions Club.

### ODF public meeting called unproductive From Carol Brown Cave Junction

I attended the Nov. 9 afternoon public meeting at Lorna Byrne Middle School put on by Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) regarding the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (SB 360).

It was completely unprofessional, and it was a joke. As soon as the meeting began, a man started yelling and complaining about his particular gripe, and kept up an angry discourse with the ODF speakers for a long time, until an audience member basically told him to shut up.

Then, the conversation

took place at the end of the line and nobody at the beginning of the line could hear anything. Some people had their hands up for 10 minutes and weren't asked to speak; the speakers were spending a lot of everyone's time on the angry man.

There were no microphones used until halfway through, when one was produced by the ODF speakers. A lot of people had left in disgust or frustration by the time the microphone was produced, and then we could only hear the answers from ODF and not the questions from the audience.

I was recently at a meeting in Medford, on another subject, but three people had hand-held microphones and took them to individuals in the audience who had their hands up with questions. Then, an appropriate panel member would answer, using a microphone.

Maybe, if ODF has had meeting after bad meeting, the public will get too frustrated to follow what's going on with ODF and ODF can enact some law or laws that the public would absolutely not vote for if they could only have a decent give-and-take conversation with ODF.

### Monument expansion seen as financial boost From Greg Walter & Mary Reynolds Jefferson State Financial Group Cave Junction

We are asking Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce to prepare a letter of support for expansion of the boundaries of Oregon Caves National Monument from the existing 480 acres to an area encompassing slightly less than 4,000 acres.

The commercial benefits that this will bring to our gateway community to Oregon Caves are enormous. A University of Michigan survey of the John Day Fossil Beds in Oregon can be used as an example of the economics that we have the potential for, and are already seeing, in the way of some of these fiscal benefits.

We see this as an opportunity for the community to effectively promote the area for the 2009 Centennial Cele-

bration of Oregon Caves National Monument and our unique position to promote the Sesquicentennial Celebration of Oregon because we are a gateway community from California. These are opportunities we feel are important to further commerce and tourism in Illinois Valley.

Actually, we are unable to see a downside to the overall goal of promoting our valley community and capturing more of the tourism dollars that flow through here. Our Cave Junction Draft Comprehensive Plan reiterates this over and over again as part of the 20-year projection forecast for the area.

Developing multiple revenue streams -- through timber, tourism and increased services to an increasing population of retired persons -- will bring greater economic stability to the valley. The increased publicity and recreational opportunities that will result from expansion of Oregon Caves will bring more visitors here than ever before, stimulating business for many chamber members.

We believe that all chamber members should be supporting opportunities that stimulate any of the three above-mentioned revenue

streams currently being developed in Illinois Valley. As a chamber member we encourage our chamber to promote and support the Oregon Caves National Monument expansion proposal and the increased commerce this opportunity will bring to our valley.

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### Stacy, Nathan, and future "gem" (due February 14th) wish y'all a Wonderful Holiday Season



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## Illinois Valley News

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### DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters  
**5 P.M. THURSDAYS**

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Fridays with an additional charge.)

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## NOTICE

We urge the members of the Illinois Valley community to make every effort to attend the County Planning Meeting:

**November 26 at 7 p.m.**  
**Anne Basker Auditorium,**  
**Grants Pass**

**This meeting will cover the conditional land use permit application by Barlow Sand and Gravel LLC.**

**This ad has been paid for by Paid for by STRIVE - Save The Rural Illinois Valley Environment.**

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or 659-5646  
Hwy. 199 to Hwy. 46 (Caves Hwy.) 4 1/2 mi. & follow the signs!