

Here, There, & Everywhere

HOLIDAY HAPPENING - Beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce will kick off the Yule season on the Junction Inn vacant lot. The Community Christmas Tree will be lighted, and there will be hot chocolate and cookies. Santa Claus will visit, and Illinois Valley High School choral and band students will provide music directed by Sean McKee. Anyone can attend. This year's event is directed by Alisha Thornhill, who took over from Vicki Gill. Lights are being placed on the tree courtesy of Marty's Tree Service, and the city of Cave Junction joined the community effort by purchasing lights.

WINTER BAZAAR - Dome School will present its annual Winter Bazaar Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 10 to 4 respectively. There will be handcrafted items and "quality imports." Food will include breakfast items, tostadas, soup, desserts and beverages. There also will be a raffle, children's activities, and live entertainment.

COACH KUDOS - Commenting on Illinois Valley High School's Cougar football team winning the Skyline Conference with its 10-0 record, head coach Bob Thornhill said, "It was a great season. The amount of work put in by these young men was tremendous this year. I have not had a group work so well together to fight for a common goal. They set out to be conference champions and would not be derailed. The Skyline Conference has always been a place where the big schools battle each other to find a champion. This small group showed that you should never overlook the little guy. I will miss going to practice and being able to work with these players. I want to tell them, "Gentlemen, you did yourselves, your parents, your school and community proud."

NOT FORGOTTEN - Light Up A Life celebrations to honor those who have passed on will be held in Cave Junction by Lovejoy Hospice, which is sponsoring two events. One will be on Monday, Dec. 3 in Grants Pass; the other Wednesday, Dec. 5 at Immanuel United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. in Cave Junction. The GP celebration will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the hospice offices, 939 S.W. Eighth St. This year's events again will include a tribute in photos to those being remembered, and will continue with the traditional lighting ceremony and reading of names. There also will be music and refreshments.

FEED THE HUNGRY - Food & Friends is seeking donations for its meal programs in Josephine and Jackson counties. The totals this year likely will be 55,000 meals in dining rooms, and 170,000 Meals on Wheels. Lunch is served in the county building in CJ on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Diners contribute as much as they can, but no one is turned away if they cannot contribute. To meet its financial obligations, Food & Friends must raise \$1.05 for every meal served. Donations can be sent to Southern Oregon Center for Community Partnerships, Food & Friends, P.O. Box 3275, Central Point OR 97502.

CAT TALE - One Selma resident returned home recently, and noticed that her German shepherd didn't greet her as always. Then she noticed that her home's doggie door, of a size for maybe a wiener dog, was broken out. Then she noticed a cougar on her roof. Staring at her. Fortunately, the critter took off without further ado. As for the shepherd, he had broken through the door to get away from the big cat.

NOTEPAD - A Christmas bazaar will be held Friday, Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Countryside Village Retirement, 1700 Kellenbeck Ave. in Grants Pass ... **Christmas cards** cannot be sent to recovering U.S. soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, apparently because of security reasons. Anyone with info on what can be sent is asked to contact *I.V. News* ... **Christmas decorations** (indoor and outdoor by chamber members) again will be judged by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce. They must be ready Friday, Dec. 14. Phone 592-3326 for more information ... **Master Gardener** training that lasts 11 weeks is offered by Oregon State University Extension in Grants Pass. Space is limited; phone 476-6613 ... **A Cave Junction** resident visited family in New York State recently. She actually saw one relative making a snow angel. Face first. She's still chuckling ... **Pearl Harbor Day** will be marked Friday, Dec. 7 by Glenn Morrison American Legion Post 70 & Auxiliary. See next week's issue for details ... **T-shirts**: *Kids: The gift that keeps on taking. *Please don't interrupt me when I'm talking to myself. *You probably don't recognize me without my Superman cape. *If you met my family you'd understand.

LAST WORDS - *Getting older is no problem. You just have to live long enough. *I intend to live forever, or die trying. (Groucho Marx)

DOME SCHOOL

WINTER HOLIDAY BAZAAR

December 1st & 2nd
Saturday 10 to 5 Sunday 10 to 4

CRAFTS • FOOD • RAFFLE

the DOME SCHOOL —
TAKILMA COMMUNITY BUILDING
9367 TAKILMA ROAD
CAVE JUNCTION, ORE 97523
for information phone
(541) 592-3911

LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

kept singing the same old song.

When will this madness ever end?/I fear never since this is how it's always been.

Visitor 'Welcome' sign
From John Woodward & Linda Corey-Woodward

As we travel Redwood Hwy. between Grants Pass and the California border, we pass several well-designed, attractive signs.

Two which come to mind are the new Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District sign atop Hay's Hill, and the "Welcome to Cave Junction" sign at the south end of Cave Junction.

So, we cannot help but notice the "Welcome to the Illinois Valley" billboard eyesore near Hay's Hill, which is faded and was damaged by a pickup truck accident more than a year ago. It has needed repair or replacement for a long time.

What kind of message does the current state of the "Welcome" sign say to visitors to our beautiful valley? Are we proud of our valley or not?

Rumor has it that several thousand dollars have been collected by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce. The money was raised through fund-raisers and donations designated specifically for this purpose.

To date, we valley residents have no news regarding this long-overdue project. Shouldn't our chamber keep us informed about progress, and even to request our input about something that reflects our business community and our community at large?

Don't we have a say? After all, we the people ultimately pay the bill.

Cougar applause
From Tom Scaffin
Grants Pass

The Skyline Conference football champion Illinois Valley Cougars deserve congratulations. As a former Cougar footballer, (Class of '83) and one who endured seasons that were less than successful in the win-loss column, it makes me proud to see the success of this team in winning the Skyline title.

Coach Bob Thornhill deserves a lot of credit for molding a championship team in a community where support for the team could have been stronger.

Being out in the community I reside in now, Grants Pass and Medford, it was great to hear the conversations among the sports fans talking about I.V. being a powerhouse to contend with.

The games I had the opportunity to watch had I.V. winning in blow-outs, and the team members handled themselves with class, and style.

It made this alum very proud. I.V. footballers and Thornhill did a great job becoming 10-0 Skyline Conference champions. Sounds good to me.

Body armor; tax/grants
From Paul Grad
Cave Junction

I had intended this letter to deal with one issue: the provision of protective body armor for police through HR 3304 -- a bill introduced by Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas).

But an *I.V. News* Blog entry by Josiah Dean (a newspaper staffer) criticized several of my comments on the online edition of the *Noose* without quoting my name, so I feel I must primarily use this letter to respond to those criticisms and clarify the issues.

However, the more pressing issue is the help that Paul's bill would give our police in protecting themselves against the extremely

lethal weapons they are up against nowadays. It would provide an alteration to the IRS Code to permit peace officers to purchase their own body armor, and receive the entire cost as a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against their federal income tax liabilities.

This would de facto provide them with both armor, since Congress has shirked its responsibility and is so obsessed with passing its frivolous and wasteful earmarks, that it can't seem to think about the safety of the officer on the beat. I think that's disgusting.

Deputy Sheriff Denis Wise, president of the American Federation of Police, has said, "I urge all police officers and concerned citizens to contact their congressmen and ask them to support Rep. Paul's bill." I strongly agree.

Now to the newly formed *I.V. News* Blog where I was criticized for comments I made on the grant to build the small business center in Kerby, asserting that grants are theft. Grants are taxes, and Frank Chodorov, a famous Libertarian economist and theorist, wrote a book, *Taxation is Theft*. It's obviously true, but taxes are obviously necessary to have any government at all. The question is: What is the least immoral way of taxing?

And that issue needs to be debated by the people. But saying that taxes (or grants, which are the same thing) are theft is not outlandish, but a debatable statement. What people forget when they think of government programs that sound, and many times are, useful, is the harm done to the people who are taxed.

They could have used those funds to better them-

selves and their families, and the damage done to them is exactly equal to the good done, if any, by the federal program, if not greater. (Frederic Bastiat pointed that out in the 1850s.) Many times these programs are a complete wreck and waste of money. I find it ironic that this grant confiscates wealth by force from small businessmen to promote the virtues of small business.

However, as a pro-free market capitalist, I obviously think this program is better than most if we're going to have any government programs. And we know that Oregon sends far more taxes to the federal government than it gets back.

But the immorality of taxing for things not in the Constitution, and the fact that government is allowed to commit this immorality, directly contradicts the rights guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. And to destroy the rule of law in America is suicide for our Republic.

Dean also criticizes my saying that we'd have all the money we'd need to run JoCo if we didn't have 700 military bases around the world, and asks what has that to do with our county and its government, which he says I called socialist?

Well, firstly, if we weren't wasting \$350 billion a year of our \$500 billion military budget defending wealthy nations like Japan, Korea and the EU, and we took 1/80th of just one of those billions, we'd have the \$12 million it takes to run our county without tax in-

creases or massive logging.

We also have 700 other bases around the world, sucking up our wealth. That's why we don't have the money we need in JoCo; not because people are chintzy when it comes to paying taxes.

And notice I said in my comment that we were run by corporate socialists, not just socialists, since many people claim to be capitalists, but are receiving socialist corporate welfare. Our public land resources are sold for well under their intrinsic market value by BLM, a federal agency.

The state of Oregon taxes corporations at a far lower rate on income taxes than individuals, which is another form of socialist corporate welfare. The recent flap in town, where people's property not adjacent to a road improvement project are taxed arbitrarily by the state for a benefit that accrues to the developers, is another example.

I also believe that the \$70k salaries (guess \$60k wasn't enough) of the county commissioners before benefits smacks of old Russian Communist elitism, where the government apparatchiks lived like kings while the workers slaved to keep them. Most folks in JoCo probably don't make much more than \$20k to \$30k per year. To pay the commissioners \$70k to \$80k is elitist, and again, what I feel is theft by taxation.

I'm glad that Dean has the guts to criticize my views because cordial public debate in the press strengthens the Republic.

Letters to the Editor -- your community forum.

Even Santa needs helpers!



The elves of I.V. Rotary Club will be giving \$500 to help CJ Cares and Santa's friend Fred Ball bring smiles to young faces Christmas Day.

We invite the community to match this contribution with cash or new toys.

Bring your donations to Lynn Boucher-Johnson at A+ Mini-storage or to Fred at Bi-rite Auto Parts before December 15. Or phone Lynn at 592-6855 or 592-3594

ROTARY CLUB OF ILLINOIS VALLEY

