

Here, There, & Everywhere

CROSSWALK WATCH - Hwy. 199 at River Street at the north end of the city of Cave Junction will be the focus of a crosswalk rules enforcement operation on Thursday, Oct. 30. The plan was announced by Deputy George Gasperson, city contract officer from Josephine County Sheriff's Office. The nonsignalized intersection is used by numerous pedestrians, including students from Evergreen Elementary, Lorna Byrne Middle and Illinois Valley High schools. The enforcement operation is believed to be the first in city history.

SHOO FLU - Flu and pneumonia immunizations are offered by Siskiyou Community Health Center in Cave Junction, all from 2 to 6 p.m. The schedule: Thursday, Oct. 23; Tuesday through Thursday, Oct. 28 to 30; and the same days on Nov. 4 through 6, and Nov. 11 through 13. For more information phone 592-4111.

'SWEET TREATS' - Set for Sunday, Oct. 26 beginning at 6:30 p.m. is a public event, *Speak Up and Sing Out!* plus "Chocolate Sunday" by Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA). It will be held at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Cave Junction and feature the *Libby Goines Trio* for singing out; the IVSHA staff for speaking up; "and chocolate in all its glorious forms." Coffee, dessert and music will be provided for a free-will donation. Among treats will be chocolate cake by Kate Dwyer Catering. For more information, phone Iris Chinook at 592-4147.

HAPPY HAUNTING - A Happy Haunting House will be open at the Jubilee Park pavilion in Cave Junction on Monday through Friday, Oct. 27 to 31. Proceeds will benefit the Illinois Valley High School Safe & Sober Grad Night Party. The Halloween season presentation will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and on Halloween from 5 to 10 p.m. See the ad elsewhere in this issue.

COUGAR CAMPAIGN - Tickets for a raffle to raise funds to help students in need are available, said Heather Merrill, family advocate at Illinois Valley High School. The prize, a letterman's jacket, will be awarded at the end of each sports season. Tickets are available at IVHS, or phone Merrill at 592-2116.

STUDENT 'SHOES' - Shoe box "care packages" for students at Illinois Valley High School "who may be less fortunate" can be donated until Dec. 3. Suggests Heather Merrill, IVHS family advocate, "Fill a shoe box with unwrapped gifts for a boy or girl." Ideas for girls: jewelry, makeup, perfume, socks, school supplies. For boys: a wallet, after-shave, socks, watch, hat, school supplies. Merrill can be contacted at 592-2116. Cash donations also are accepted, and Merrill will purchase items. She said that more than 80 students last year "were surprised with much-appreciated gift boxes, which show our students that people care about them."

NOTEPAD - Oregon Builders Inc. is located on the south side of Cave Junction, not the north side as Editor Bob mistakenly typed in last issue ... **A blood drive** will be conducted Thursday, Oct. 23 from 1 to 6 p.m. at Illinois Valley Senior Center. Phone (800) 448-3543 for more information ... **A flu clinic** by Josephine County Public Health Dept. will be held in Cave Junction on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. For more information, phone 474-5337 ... **Free clothes** that are clean and ready to wear will be available free at Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Road, on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... **I.V. Booster Club** will hold an open meeting Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at IVHS. Plans for the next school year will be discussed, and memberships are available ... **Halloween dinner** will be part of the festivities Friday, Oct. 31 at Weeping Spruce Herb Farm. Phone 592-2009 for more information or to make reservations. And see the ad in this issue ... **General election** ballots have been mailed by Josephine County Clerk's Office. Registered voters who do not receive their ballots in the mail by Friday, Oct. 24 can phone 474-5243 ... **Library support** in a financial way (with ease) is available by visiting goodsearch.com, said Josephine Community Libraries Inc. It's a Google charitable search engine. When queried as to "Who do you Goodsearch for", enter Josephine Community Libraries ... **Tourism numbers** from I.V. Visitor Center, provided by Dulcie Moore, I.V. Chamber office manager, show that 1,409 persons went to the site during September, a drop of 132 ... **Joyful Noise Troupe** will present a free *His Majesty* tambourine dance performance at Bridgeview Community Church on Nov. 9 beginning at 7 p.m. ... **Newspaper slips:** *Although the pastor tried to reason with angry members of his congregation, he could not make himself heard, and so he angrily sat on his choir, which collapsed. *This tasty treat can be made even more nasty by adding a few ounces of brandy. *Because of complaints about purity, state inspectors have been tasting the water in the river ... **T-shirts:** *Certified Old-Timer: Ask me anything. If I don't know the answer I'll make up something. *I suffer from T.M.S. Too much stuff! *I think I've lost my mind, and I'm pretty sure my kids took it.

LAST WORDS - Everybody dies. What matters is what you do between now and when it happens to you. (Orson Scott Card in *Fortune*)



Tell them you saw it in the
Illinois Valley News

Letters to the Editor

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office at all. Also, the O&C timber payment funds being released to Josephine County by the federal government are not going to Illinois Valley Fire District, not one dime.

Our fire district does more than extinguish fires. Last year only 14 percent of the 1,148 incidents were fire-related; the rest were medical and other responses. Our volunteers are certified in fire suppression and emergency medical services, and are constantly training to maintain those certifications. They are the best-of-the-best volunteers anywhere.

We should keep them in our valley and give them full-time jobs doing what they are trained to do. They respond to our emergencies wherever they are. Let us support them for a change.

**'Financial mess' blame
From Gregory D. Anderson
Cave Junction**

Why do you suppose the liberal major media allows the Democrats to get by with blaming Bush & Republicans for the financial mess when it is largely the responsibility of the Democrats?

The Clinton administration, with Andrew Cuomo, proposed 50 percent of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac portfolios be loans to the poor and minorities. They demanded that welfare and unemployment be considered income when applying for home loans. Franklin Raines, a Clinton adviser, was appointed president of Fannie and knocked down \$90 million in six years.

Sen. Chris Dodd (D) not only got tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, he was able to save many thousands more with sweetheart deals on mort-

gages on two homes. So we get to see the corruption of the ruling elite up close and personal. Barack Obama was the second-largest recipient of campaign funds.

Bush's chief economist warned the first year of the Bush administration about the loans going to unqualified buyers. Congressional hearings were held, but Democrats Chris Dodd, Maxine Waters, Chuck Schummer and Barney Frank kept these matters from going to the floor of the House or Senate. The former independent newspaper, but now an extension of the Democratic party, the *New York Times*, wrote that Fannie and Freddie were "under heavy assault" by Republicans.

Thus the house of cards was set up by the Democrats. I have to think it was from greed and ignorance rather than a purposeful "October Surprise." So when the Dems and their sycophants are shouting it is due to deregulation by Republicans it is disingenuous at best or an outright lie at worst. The epitome of hypocrisy is when these creators of the mess stand before TV cameras and blame it on Republicans.

I agree with Wally from Selma when he wrote on these pages a couple weeks ago: "The Democrats will lie about anything ..."

So here are our choices. One presidential candidate has virtually no management experience unless you want to count the years he spent representing ACORN. This organization is a far left group that is being investigated in 14 states for election fraud (indicted in several).

His campaign has given \$800,000 to ACORN for its activities. His VP pick has had no management experi-

ence and thinks FDR went on TV in 1929 to talk to the people. It was pointed out later to this man, who has a history of plagiarism, that there was no TV at this time and it was before FDR was elected.

The presidential nominee of the other party was a commander in the U.S. Navy. He has never received an earmark (his opponent received about a million dollars a day in earmarks before the campaign.) His VP selection has been part owner of a small business, a mayor of a small town, an appointee by the governor to deal with energy problems in her state, and is a sitting governor. Not bad for a mother of five, and wife of a union member who is a very supportive husband.

Finally, because I think a little levity in the closing days of this election is appropriate, I offer two questions:

1. What do Obama and Osama have in common? Answer: They both have friends who bombed the Pentagon. 2. When Speaker polemic Pelosi chose a moment calling for bipartisanship, to blame the financial meltdown entirely on Republicans and Bush, what was it called? Answer: The Cheap Shot Heard 'Round the World.

**A different view
From Flo Shepherd
Selma**

I usually read "Letters to the Editor" with a grain of salt, as everyone has a right to their opinion. However, I felt the need to submit my own letter after reading the Oct. 8 letter from "the writer who is a correspondent for *I.V. News* (Linda Corey-Woodward) but submitted a letter as a private citizen."

Throughout this presidential election cycle the media (TV, radio and print) have

blurred the line between subjectively reporting a story and expressing a personal opinion within the story in regard to an individual candidate. It's bad enough when I read AP stories that seem to reflect the view of the reporter instead of a straightforward article.

Now, when I read a story in *I.V. News* by the above-mentioned correspondent, I will always wonder about the views or objectivity of the writer when all I want are the facts.

I, too, have followed the candidates during the 2008 election process, but I have a far different view about their character, ideals and direction they want to take this country. Our country is not in tatters on every level. We are facing tough challenges, but an Obama presidency is not the answer. His plans will only lead us into more trouble. Obama/Biden is the combination that makes me uncomfortable and worried.

While it is fine to have eloquent speeches of hope and change, I am interested in what a candidate has actually accomplished in their public and personal life. What positive hope and change has Obama brought to Illinois as a state or U.S. Senator? Other than the millions of dollars that have flowed into that state since Obama has been a senator, what positive effect has it had on the citizens of that state?

Have the citizens' lives improved with new job opportunities or better education? Has the school drop-out rate lessened? Has crime decreased? Are citizens in the neighborhoods of Chicago, in which Obama worked as a community organizer, better off? Are they more self-reliant and independent or has

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Chief's Corner

**By Harry Rich
I.V. Fire District**

Fire departments are seeing volunteer and staffing shortages across the USA; there are problems nationwide.

Our firefighters are considered part of the nation's "domestic army" -- they are fire troops called upon to respond to any emergency or even another terrorist attack, and are an asset to the welfare of our communities.

But in many financially troubled cities, counties and fire districts the ranks of those first-responders are thinning. Staffing problems in our fire agencies leave citizens unprotected during an extreme emergency incident, fire, medical or even another terrorist attack.

Sure, we don't have tall buildings or large industrial complexes, but remember that the terrorists of 9-11 learned their skill of flying in small town America.

The Associated Press in a 2006 report stated: At least two-thirds of the nation's fire departments are understaffed, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which sets firefighting codes and standards. The shortage is worst in rural volunteer departments that have trouble recruiting new members and volunteers. But many big and medium-size city fire departments are also short-handed.

Some cities and fire agencies are having to close fire stations. In many cities, response times are slower, and trucks go out with too few firefighters.

A classic example of that real impact cited by fire investigators identified many factors that contributed to the deaths of 100 people in a West Warwick, R.I., nightclub fire in 2006. A report

commissioned by the state noted that the five fire trucks at the scene arrived with only two firefighters each -- half the number recommended by the NFPA. News videos showed delays in getting water on the fire.

While staffing companies to nationally recognized standards is desirable, "it is beyond the reach financially for our valley as it is with many financially strapped communities."

Nationally, the number of firefighters has remained stagnant in recent years, despite federal help from the Dept. of Home Land Security for many, but not for us. Our fire budget is based solely on property taxes. The Bush administration, which has emphasized that staffing levels for fire departments should be largely a local responsibility is phasing out the Home Land Security support.

In many cities, fire chiefs are having to lay off firefighting personnel or not fill vacancies. This is leading to dangerously lower staffing levels that could leave emergency workers unprepared and citizens unprotected during future disastrous events as in our wild-fires or floods. The call-up of reservists and National Guard members for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has also taxed fire departments staffing levels.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the National Guard has called up hundreds of firefighters to serve and that number continues to increase.

Smaller Staffing, Higher Standards
I, along with most fire chiefs and emergency preparedness officials, as is the "National Fire Council," are most concerned about the

shortage of firefighters, who would be the first to respond to any catastrophic event or fires. During the past 20 years, the number of firefighters nationwide has declined, despite a 25 percent increase in the nation's population.

If we can't even tackle a moderate or large structure fire, how are we going to handle a multicasualty or a second fire incident?

Our continuing volunteer staffing problems means that our fire trucks still are sent out with fewer firefighters, sometimes only one on the apparatus. But NFPA and Oregon OSHA safety standards for interior fire attack dictates that two firefighters may enter a burning building while two remain outside to handle equipment and, if necessary, rescue their colleagues. This is called the two-in/two-out

concept.

Our volunteers and career staff are loyal and dedicated to the safety and protection of our communities.

We now have three new fire stations that were absolutely needed due to the falling down 57-year-old buildings that should have been red-tagged as unsafe. Our fire apparatus is suitable for now, and some rigs are in need of replacement. One of our fire engines is still in service; it was built by Ford in 1964.

This is our community, and together we live as neighbors. We need to continue to be independent and self-reliant. Your Illinois Valley Fire District lives in your communities and so do firefighters and support personnel. We ask continued support for the fire district, that citizens remember to vote in the November election.

**ILLINOIS VALLEY SAFE HOUSE ALLIANCE
PRESENTS:**

**SPEAK UP AND SING OUT!
& CHOCOLATE SUNDAY**

FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Where: Immanuel United Methodist Church
200 W. Watkins, Cave Junction

When: Sunday, October 26, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Who: Everyone Welcome!

Featuring the LIBBY GOINES TRIO for the sing out, our staff for the speak up and chocolate in all of it's glorious forms for Chocolate Sunday. Chocolate cakes by Kate Dwyer!

Coffee, dessert and music offered for donation.
For more information please call Iris at 592-4147.

ILLINOIS VALLEY
SAFE HOUSE ALLIANCE
MORE THAN
A SAFE PLACE