

Bob's Corner

As the annual day of Thanksgiving goblin' approaches faster than a speeding bullet or Uncle Clarence reaching for the sweet potatoes, we pause. Not only to ask for another helping of turkey, count our blessings, and chew Tums after dinner, but to ask in all sincerity and rather plaintively: Where did 2008 go?

I've heard quite a few people ask the same question. Seems as though the months have passed with amazing, accelerating speed. What's up with that?

Soon Yule find that it's time for Christmas. These two holiday periods of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I've found, seem to cause much anxiety among many, plus depression. It seems that during what are supposed to be joyous times of celebration and reflection on our blessings, there are more suicides, deaths of elderly persons and tragedies. What's up with that? In fact, in monitoring the OSP and sheriff's office frequencies, we are noticing way more "road rage" incidents around here than usual.

We have a relatively small newspaper this issue, although as usual (I say modestly) it's packed with good stuff. Most of it is about our valley and surrounding community. Like all publications, we have critics and those who are positive that they could do the job much better. That's fine: Everyone is entitled to their opinions. We try each issue to do the best that we can to produce a lively, entertaining and informative newspaper. And it works for the most part.

Frankly, we receive more compliments than flak. For being able to deal with that while doing what we love for the valley we love, we are extremely grateful. So our Thanksgiving prayer will reflect that. And in this case there's no need to ask, What's up with that?

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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Nov. 26
Clouds and sun
High--50 Low--27



Thursday, Nov. 27
Cloudy
High--49 Low--29



Friday, Nov. 28
Sun hidden by clouds
High--51 Low--30



Saturday, Nov. 29
More sun than clouds
High--49 Low--27



Sunday, Nov. 30
Sun and clouds
High--50 Low--37



Monday, Dec. 1
Sunny
High--57 Low--42



Tuesday, Dec. 2
Sunshine
High--61 Low--43



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

*Fri.,	Nov. 14	57	40	.00
*Sat.,	Nov. 15	53	37	.00
*Sun.,	Nov. 16	53	41	.00
*Mon.,	Nov. 17	54	39	.00
*Tue.,	Nov. 18	49	39	.00
*Wed.,	Nov. 19	48	41	.00
*Thu.,	Nov. 20	52	37	.57

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in Cave Junction at Illinois River Farm:

*Fri.,	Nov. 14	59	37	.00
*Sat.,	Nov. 15	56	37	.02
*Sun.,	Nov. 16	53	41	.00
*Mon.,	Nov. 17	54	40	.02
*Tue.,	Nov. 18	48	40	.01
*Wed.,	Nov. 19	48	42	.01
*Thu.,	Nov. 20	55	38	.69

I go on working for the same reason that a hen goes on laying eggs.

~ H. L. Mencken ~

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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.)

POLICY ON LETTERS: Illinois Valley News' welcomes letters to the editor provided they are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. Generally, one letter per person per month at publisher's discretion. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be levied if a letter is inordinately long in the publisher's opinion.

POLICY ON "HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE," DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADS & NOTICES: All submissions must be hand-delivered, faxed or e-mailed to us for publication. Submissions must be resubmitted weekly if the item is to run more than one week.

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Letters to the Editor

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

* * *

Typed, double-spaced letters 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.

Open Door help From Vicki Jones Selma

I volunteer at the Illinois Valley Open Door, a non-profit food and clothing bank in Selma that Dodie Vandermark has operated since 1995. There are only three of us who run our food bank, and we volunteer our time.

Three agencies provide a

monthly cash donation to us personally, and a couple of private individuals send us cash donations, which defray some of our costs. But the price of food is rising, and donations are getting to be fewer and smaller. Things are getting tighter for all of us.

More people are coming for food, blankets, clothing. In October we served 663 patrons, up 145 from September. Our food boxes are going to be a little smaller.

People can come to our place twice a month, but it has to be in a two-week interval. In order for us to help folks and keep things running, we need food donations, money donations, blankets, old useable sleeping bags. Donations are tax-deductible. Whatever someone decides to give; one can or a truck load, one dollar or a hundred dollars, we will be pleased.

"Hunger knows no friend

but its feeder."

Fire danger From Mark Rehmar O'Brien

According to the article in last week's *Illinois Valley News*, Illinois Valley Fire District Chief Harry Rich intends to submit a tax levy proposal identical to the one rejected by voters in the recent election.

We could speculate endlessly why voters rejected the fire levy. Certainly these are unusually difficult economic times. Certainly Illinois Valley has a history of not welcoming added taxes. Certainly the added state fire protection tax many of us found on our recent property tax statements didn't help.

But the exact reasons for the recent levy rejection are not that important. What is important is that the levy was rejected by an overwhelm-

ingly 40 point margin. There is little chance of the same measure garnering enough added support to pass in the near future.

However, a modified levy, for a smaller amount, would show that the chief and the fire district board are listening to their constituents. The good will this would generate may just make it possible to pass this smaller amount.

According to Rich's statement, the failed levy would have provided for 12 full-time firefighters, the number he says we need for the level of fire protection he would like to see. However, what we as a community may just not right now be able or willing to afford this ideal level of protection.

Certainly a smaller levy that provided for six or eight full-time staffers would be **(Continued on page 3)**

Point of View

By ED FEULNER, President The Heritage Foundation

How fitting that, having campaigned on conservative themes throughout the fall, President-elect Barack Obama's acceptance speech concluded with words that should warm the heart of conservatives everywhere.

"This is our time," he said, to "reaffirm that fundamental truth that, out of many, we are one. That while we breathe, we hope. And where we are met with cynicism and doubts and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes, we can."

An abiding relief in our country's greatness, tinged with optimism, long has been a cornerstone of conservatism. And Obama's been tacitly leaning toward conservative ideas since he became the Democratic nominee. Even though his record indicated he was the most liberal candidate in (at least) a generation, he took some conservative positions on issues like taxes (promising to cut them), homeland security (strengthening border security) and energy (saying he'd at least consider offshore drilling).

This is no surprise, since poll after poll showed Americans remain fundamentally conservative. For example, an October Rasmussen survey found that 59 percent of voters agree that government is the problem and not the solution. Just 28 percent disagree with that conservative tenet.

On taxes, the same survey found that 58 percent of voters favor tax cuts over

another stimulus bill containing new government spending. Only 32 percent think the government should pass another economic stimulus package.

Another survey, taken less than a week before the election by the Tarrance Group and Lake Research Partners, showed that 57 percent of Americans called themselves "somewhat conservative" or "very conservative." Only 35 percent consider themselves "somewhat liberal" or "very liberal."

The problem is that both political parties have failed Americans.

In recent years the Republican Party, which in President Reagan's hands carried the conservative standard to new heights, lost its way. Federal spending now tops \$25,000 per household annually, and the coming Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid costs of 77 million retiring "Baby Boomers" threaten to add another \$12,000 per household to the taxpayers' annual tab. Yet neither party offers a solution to the entitlement crisis or a real plan to cut spending.

Again, the generally conservative U.S. people sense this. A Rasmussen poll shows that 59 percent of Americans would vote to replace the entire Congress if they could do so. In August, Rasmussen found that a mere 9 percent of likely voters approve of the job Congress is doing, while half say it's doing a poor job. That's even lower than the 25 percent approval rating voters give President Bush.

Conservatism is a big tent, and our policies of low taxes, a strong military and personal responsibility are good for wealthy elites and blue-collar workers. It was no

surprise to conservatives that Joe the Plumber recognized that, along with millions of others.

Obama ran to the right, claiming 95 percent of Americans would get a tax cut under his administration, because polls show broad support for that conservative principle. To cite just one example, an Americans for Prosperity survey two years ago showed that 62 percent of

Americans want to extend the Bush tax cuts, as opposed to 25 percent who want to allow taxes to rise. Sixty-one percent of Americans want a permanent elimination of the death tax, as opposed to 22 percent who want it brought back in 2011.

Today, Republicans who have lost touch with their conservative roots are in trouble. Conservatives, on the other hand, are thriving.

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IV Family Coalition invites you to participate in our...

4TH ANNUAL CARING TREE!

Great joy will be yours when you help others!

Help provide holiday gifts to Illinois Valley senior and disabled persons receiving home care.

Each person's wish will be put on an ornament and hung on our Caring Tree.

Select an ornament and shop for the gift during the holidays.

Over 140 applications were mailed to eligible seniors and disabled persons this year.

Come to the Coalition to select your ornament
from Monday, November 17 - Friday, December 19.

Gifts must be at the Coalition
by Saturday, December 20 for distribution.

Gifts not received by the deadline will be purchased.
Donations of funds for those wishes are appreciated.



The Illinois Valley Family Coalition

535 E. River St.
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592-6139

