

Bob's Corner

National Newspaper Week was designated for last week: Sunday, Oct. 4 through Saturday, Oct. 10. So I'm a week late. And I know, anyway, that for the masses, the observance of National Newspaper Week ranks with National Burned Tortilla Week and National Sample Sea Weed Week.

But those of us in the Fourth Estate, well, we kind of like the recognition. It doesn't put more cash in our tills or bigger numbers on payroll checks, but it's nice to be recognized in any fashion other than irate phone calls and vitriolic letters that often are anonymous.

Novelist Jeffrey Archer in his work, The Fourth Estate, made this observation: "In May 1789, Louis XVI summoned to Versailles a full meeting of the Estate General. The First Estate consisted of 300 clergy. The Second Estate, 300 nobles. The Third Estate, 600 commoners. Some years later, after the French Revolution, Edmund Burke, looking up at the Press Gallery of the House of Commons, said, 'Yonder sits the Fourth Estate, and they are more important than them all'."

I know that some in the media, especially the "major media," have inflated egos and take themselves way too seriously. (I differentiate between the media -- encompassing radio, TV and newspapers -- and the press, which to me is comprised only of newspapers). Chauvinistic, I know, but after some 45 years as a newspaperman, what can I say? Anyway, it's not that we don't take our work seriously; it's ourselves we make fun of.

This is not the first time, nor will it not be the last, that I will say: Anyone who has not worked at a newspaper will not understand the how and why of what we do. Working on deadlines is a wonderful experience; kind of like having stitches placed without pain killer. So we do not try to explain to or argue with those who disagree with us on matters of content or placement. We listen, and take the commentary in stride; working to note it sincerely and keep it in mind for future reference.

If we are guilty of actual errors, we print corrections. It's a fascinating endeavor, putting out a real newspaper. And Happy National Newspaper Week to all (Belatedly).



IRS REMINDS TAXPAYERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TAX BREAKS

When the IRS reminds you to take advantage of a new tax perk, you know it must be a good deal. And that is exactly what many taxpayers will find in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA). That is, if they act in time.

Taxpayers who did not own their principal residence during the last three years might still have time to qualify for the first-time homebuyer tax credit of up to \$8,000. However, you must close on the home before December 1, 2009. Note that the credit is reduced for higher-income earners.

There are tax perks for current homeowners as well. Energy-efficient upgrades can qualify you for a tax credit. The credit applies to eligible property placed into service in your principal residence during 2009 and 2010. Qualifying improvements include insulation; exterior windows and doors; central air conditioning systems; water heaters and furnaces burning natural gas, propane, or oil; stoves using renewable biomass fuel such as wood, pellets, and plants; hot water boilers; electric heat pump water heaters; certain roofing material; and advanced main air circulating fans. Big ticket projects, such as solar water heaters and geothermal heat pumps, can reap a credit for up to 30% of the cost.

Looking for a new car? If you buy a qualified new car, light truck, motorcycle, or motor home before the end of the year, you can deduct the sales tax on as much as \$49,500 of the purchase price. Again, the deduction phases out at higher income levels, so check the rules before you buy.

The ARRA expands higher education assistance through the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which is a new, improved version of the Hope Credit. For 2009 and 2010, the annual \$2,500 maximum credit covers not only tuition, but additional education items as well, such as books and other required course materials. What's more, the credit is available for the first four years of college rather than just two years as allowed under the prior Hope credit.

As with most new tax laws, there are special rules to know before you act. Contact us if you need details or tax planning assistance.

Karen M Bodeving CPA is a Nationally Recognized CPA. She is a Community Oriented Illinois Valley resident. Her office is located at: 574 NE E St., Grants Pass, OR -- Non Tax season office hours are 9 am -- 1 pm, Monday through Thursday. Other hours and Illinois Valley appointments are available by calling her office at **479-3625**.

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Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330
Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net or newsdesk@illinois-valley-news.com
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Staff: Zina Booth, Brenda Encinas, Scott Jorgensen and Millie Watkins
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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.)

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year in Josephine County - \$22.80
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$26.40
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$36
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction OR 97523

Budget cuts force state employee furloughs

Area offices of the Dept. of Human Services (DHS) and other state agencies will be closed Friday, Oct. 16, as 26,500 state employees take mandatory, unpaid furloughs.

Each day of closure will save an estimated \$2 million in personnel costs statewide.

The Oct. 16 closure, a result of budget cuts adopted by the Legislature due to the current recession, is the first of 10 closure dates the state has scheduled during the remainder of the current two-year budget period.

"We apologize for any inconvenience these closures might cause to the public, and we are taking every possible step to reduce the impact on clients and communities that depend on DHS to help keep families healthy, safe and able to support themselves," said Dr. Bruce Goldberg, DHS director.

Certain DHS employees who ensure client safety and care for the state hospital's patients will remain on the job. However, local branch offices that serve people will be closed. These include offices where people apply for Oregon Health plan, TANF and food stamp benefits, as well as child welfare, vocational rehabilitation and state-operated offices serving senior citizens and people with disabilities.

State Websites Offer Information on Closures

The Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services has published information about Friday's closure and furloughs on the state's Website (www.oregon.gov), along

with a schedule of the remaining closure days.

The public also can find out which state offices will remain open on the closure days. The public is encour-

aged to check individual agency Websites for additional information.

The state has scheduled the following dates as closure days with mandatory unpaid furloughs (all are Fridays):

*2009 — Oct. 16 and Nov. 27.

*2010 — March 19, April 16, June 18, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, and Nov. 26.

*2011 — March 18 and May 20.

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 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.

To be sovereign and free From Jim Rafferty Selma

It was once said that a penny earned was a penny saved. Those who think earned money should be

shared by all (socialism) should read no further, since they do not believe the fruits of one's labor belong to the one who earned it.

This country was rich in the wealth of personal achievements and prospered for well more than 100 years without government assistance programs. Remember, government gets its authority from us, the governed. Not political parties, not lobbyists and not from unconstitutional administrative rules, laws or mandates.

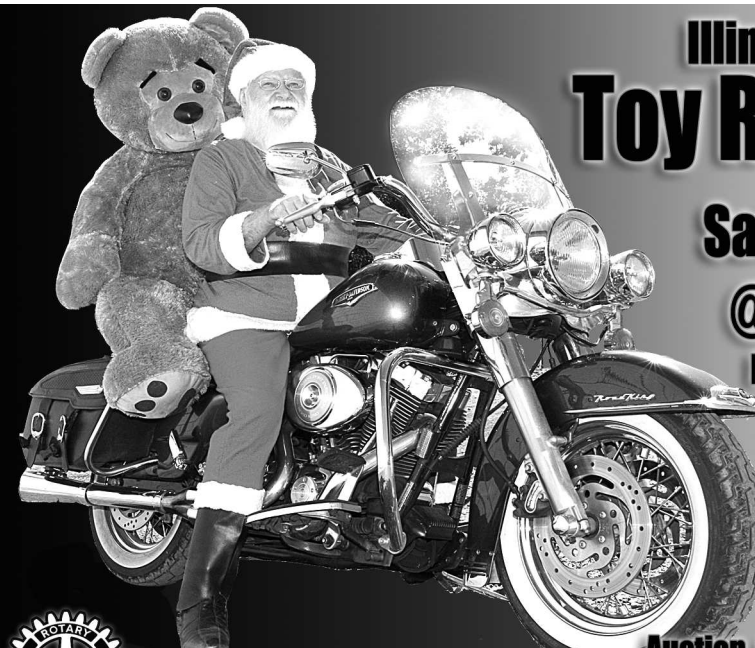
To be Sovereign and Free we must support and elect candidates who agree. Like Jack Brown, who is the

right choice for Josephine County Commissioner 2010.

Kudos to I.V. News From Jim Frick Cave Junction

The *Illinois Valley News* is fortunate to have an honest reporter detail the facts of events and stories happening throughout Josephine County. It is interesting how those that don't agree with sound and truthful reporting are so intolerant.

People should keep applauding Scott Jorgensen and the *Illinois Valley News* for its fair and unbiased journalism. Citizens deserve the truth, not myth politics.



Illinois Valley Bikers Toy Run 2009

Saturday, Oct. 24
@ Junction Inn*
Poker Run sign-in 10 a.m.
\$5 per hand.
Music at 1 p.m.
Admission \$10
or New Toy of equal or greater value
Auction, raffles & 50/50 drawing.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Illinois Valley
All proceeds/items collected to be donated to Christmas Basket Program *Must be 21 to enter the Timber Room Lounge

Volunteer Firefighters Needed Your Community Needs You!

Come Join the Team



MEN and WOMEN - 18 years & older.
Firefighting and medical training provided.
Driver training provided.
Must have valid Oregon driver license.



**Pick-up application at
Illinois Valley Fire District
681 Caves Hwy.,
Cave Junction
phone 592-2225
for more information**



Apply Today!
Application Deadline: October 30

(All 21st Century events are free, open to students, homeschoolers, staff and parents/guardians of students at any Illinois Valley school.)