

# Illinois Valley News

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## Inside:

**IVHS Softball**  
Page A-6



**Bird Watching with Harry**  
Page A-7

**IVHS Track**  
Page B-1

**IVHS Baseball**  
Page B-1

**SPECIAL Easter Pages**  
Page A-6

**Water Quality Discussion**  
Page A-1

**City Recognizes Public Safety**  
Page A-3

**Obituaries** A-6  
**Sudoku** A-7  
**Crossword** A-7  
**Classified** B-2  
**Blotter** A-5

## Awards for IV Fire 2010 team

By Darcy Wallace  
IVN Staff Writer

The Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) held its annual recognition ceremony for members and volunteers Saturday, April 9, in the Lorna Byrne Middle School cafeteria.

IVFD members received recognition in various categories such as Rookie, Support Member and Firefighter of the Year. Staff also won credit for the time they had served, from first-year participants to 20-years-plus veterans.

Many of those in the IVFD are volunteers, mostly unpaid in their work at the office, assisting in fighting fires, responding to other emergencies or maintaining fire stations and more.

"These volunteers are paid nothing to put their lives on the line," said IV Fire Chief Harry Rich.

Many new employees joined the IV Fire District and received first-year awards, some of whom include Alison Arnold as administrative assistant, Jon Vellinga and Justin Lewis.

Vellinga also won the Rookie of the Year Award in what Rich said was a tight race between two high-performing new members.

Gerry Bjornstad won Officer of the Year as Captain at Station 1 in Cave Junction. Bjornstad works alongside Division 1 Captain Wayland Sherman and Station 1 Lieutenant Kathy Koontz.

First-year member Andrea Steelman won the Support Staff of the Year award and was recognized for her enthusiasm and energy as a new face on the IVFD volunteer roster.

"[Steelman] has come quite a long way," Rich said. "[She's] always

willing to dive into whatever seems to come up."

Volunteer firefighter Tony Paulson won the Firefighter of the Year award in his second year with the IVFD.

Just a handful of other awards in Saturday's ceremony included recognition of Fire Station 2 in the Maintenance Award category and the numerous others who have served anywhere from one year to the 29 years of Tom Zullinger.

Rich recognized 88-year-old Ralph Howell, who has served for 28 years with IV Fire. Rich said Howell is a great mentor who made a promise to stay on while Rich was still with the department.

"I said, you don't have permission to retire until I leave," Rich said.

Rich and Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Gavlik also acknowledged family

members for their constant support of employees and volunteers, and for dealing with the times IVFD members sometimes have to leave unannounced for an emergency.

The awards ceremony also honored the dispatchers for their hard work at all hours taking emergency calls, especially the times when 911 services halted during power outages.

To close out the event, guests ate dessert and watched a video slide show by photographer Dale Sandberg, showing major events where IV Fire District personnel responded.

One extra flower bouquet went to Chief Rich's wife, Rainie, for her support.

"She is my true boss," Rich said.



(Photo by Dale Sandberg, IVFD Media Dept)

Illinois Valley Fire District officials (from left) Kamron Ismaili, Jeff Gavlik, Harry Rich, Kris Sherman and Ken Gavlik.

## Fund-raisers help Safe House Alliance

By Darcy Wallace  
IVN Staff Writer

In a busy weekend for the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA), the nonprofit held a community garden work party followed by its annual Soup for the Souls fund-raiser dinner Saturday, April 9.

Soups made by residents and local businesses, an auction, a raffle and a cakewalk entertained guests, who also had the option to take home the handmade ceramic bowls used to serve the soups.

According to IVSHA Executive Director Christine Mallette, the dinner raised about \$8,000, which is comparable to last year despite ongoing economic troubles.

"There were a few new faces, but many were people who have been [to the fund-raiser] every year the last five years," Mallette said. "It's always fun to see them coming back."

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will go towards IVSHA general operating costs and providing services and support for abuse survivors.

"It goes towards keeping the doors open and lights on, emergency motels, gas out of town, whatever it takes [to help]," Mallette said.

Mallette was impressed with the hard work of volunteers who helped run Soup for the Souls, also crediting new volunteer coordinator Marcy Sowa for her ambitious goals.

"It's slow growth here in the Valley and you don't always take leaps and bounds," Mallette said. "I was very impressed with the

turnout and the volunteers were amazing. It was a huge success."

Earlier that day, several community members worked on the developing community garden behind the IVSHA building in Cave Junction next to the DMV.

Ann and Ron Padgett, owners of Harmony Gardens Landscape and Design, used their experience to help organize the community garden work party the morning of April 9. The volunteers leveled out the grounds, took out rocks and spread mulch to help get it ready for home gardeners to take out plots of their own.

According to Ron Padgett, current plans set aside 25 plots of about 120-150 square feet each. Volunteers also put up birdhouses and hope to include a beehive for pollination.

"I'm really excited something like this is happening in Cave Junction," Padgett said. "There's something about gardening together, growing food and sharing skills and ideas; it's great for people who maybe wouldn't have come into contact any other way, but what they have in common is gardening."

Padgett said future projects for the community garden include installing the watering system and bringing in compost, something that could be done as early as mid-May.

"I think community gardens are great and I've been involved in a few throughout my life," Padgett said. "I like being able to help get [the garden] going so other people can experience that too."

## Groups discuss water quality

By Darcy Wallace  
IVN Staff Writer

The Illinois Valley Watershed Council (IVWC) and the Soil and Water Conservation District want to reach out to the public about their current and future projects and hear more community input.

On Tuesday, April 5, that outreach began with a presentation on the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) from Chuck Fustish of the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and a stream table demonstration from Mike Bowman at the Cave Junction County Building.

IVWC member Emily Ring said for a first attempt at public outreach, the event was fun and engaging for those who attended. Many were "familiar faces" of those already interested or involved in water conservation projects, but Ring hopes to include others in the Illinois Valley.

"We really want to see new faces," Ring said. "We're looking for ways to draw in new community members. It was a way to get people exposed; but I think everybody who was there had a good time."

At the county build-

ing, Fustish explained how the STEP program conducts research on fish migration patterns, periodically checking hoop fish traps for the numbers and types of fish who are hatching in local rivers. Members of IVWC and City of Cave Junction employees help out with the project.

According to Fustish, the Illinois River Basin has important spawning and rearing areas for Coho salmon. Last year's project sampled Brooks Creek and is monitoring Tributary A this year. Both watersheds are in Cave Junction near the Illinois Valley Golf Course.

Volunteers found 48 young Coho salmon, five steelhead and two sculpin in the Brooks Creek trap from the end of January to early April 2010. As of April 3, 2011, a spreadsheet showed 38 Coho and 19 steelhead in Tributary A.

"These are living streams that support fish populations,"

Fustish said. "We hope to increase people's appreciation for the land they live on."

Bowman, education manager for the Clean Forests Project, used the stream table April 5 to simulate a local waterway running through a residential area and how it might be affected by weather changes, clearing the stream bank or pollution.

Bowman turned a spigot adjusting water flow to simulate lower water flow in summer and higher flow in winter. With a drop of red dye, Bowman also demonstrated how runoff could still end up in water tables underneath houses, leak into well water or make it to the stream itself.

"Pollution on land, even far away [from streams] can get to water tables and into people's water," Bowman said. "Water is very hard to stop; it has a way of getting where it wants to go."

Continued on A-7



A Coho salmon caught in Brooks Creek this past month.