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Members of the IVHS track team clearing brush at LBMS (Related photo on page 9)

'Tree-mendous' project at LBMS

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

A unique, woody transformation that could be a statewide model is in process at Cave Junction's Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS).

The project combines efforts of several individuals and groups, including volunteer project coordinator Allison Cleveland, with Bob Webb and Wayne Fitzpatrick, Forestry Action Committee (FAC), Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF), LBMS students and staff; Josephine County Trail Blazers, plus volunteers

including Dominic Materazzi.

The approximately three acres of wooded area that connect the rear of the new school to the track, between the school and Old Stage Road, has been off-limits to students. Dense brush has made it a fire hazard. Litter is also a common sight. And, Cleveland said, homeless people have been known to sleep there.

"The kids have never been allowed to use it (the area)," said Vice Principal Tom Hewkin.

Part of the new middle school is being built where students used to play and

"hang out." Plus, the former field at the school, used for I.V. High School football games, is eliminated.

So the forested area, with trails and maybe a gazebo for outdoor classes, will become a new, useable area for students, as well as the track.

Once the area has been cleared, pathways will be built; plants will be identified; trees planted; and benches added.

The goal is to make the area safer for students, as well as useable.

LBMS seventh-grade sci-

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Evergreen Federal getting a face-lift

Northwest 'rock-and-beam' style in keeping with area historical roots taking shape at CJ bank

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Drive Redwood Hwy. through Downtown Cave Junction and it's hard to miss.

Evergreen Federal Bank is getting a face-lift.

Landscaping outside the front of the building began several weeks ago, and when completed, will complement the rustic Northwest theme created inside the bank last summer.

"It's going to look really nice," said Al Devine, Evergreen Marketing vice president and Illinois Valley resident for 30 years.

Along with new landscaping, the renovation project will feature a large rock waterfall -- currently taking shape in the hands of Ron Padgett of Harmony Gardens in Grants Pass.

There also will be an upgraded time and temperature sign, made of natural wood and cut out metal and designed and built by Western Signs, and two life-size bronze bears sculptures.

Similar work is being done at the Evergreen branches in Grants Pass, Brookings and Rogue River.

The CJ bank's refurbished look will blend well with what Devine described as the "rock-post-and-beam" theme gaining support downtown.

Through his involvement with Illinois Valley Community Response Team (IVCRT) Business Development Committee, Devine is also developing a Downtown facade development and theme project aimed at unifying the Cave Junction community through a natural and appropriate theme. Another aim is to boost tourism and job development.

The bank landscaping is scheduled to be completed mid-May. The bronze bears are to be added in June.

Former I.V. resident and sculptor Peter Sedlow created the bears to be installed at the bank's four locations. He has collaborated with Evergreen on two other projects including one to benefit Wildlife Images Rehabilitation Center in Grants Pass.

Four of the bear sculptures became permanent public art at the Grants Pass branch on Friday, April 25.

"Evergreen is trying to make a statement," Devine said.

Evergreen President and CEO Brady Adams said in a news release regarding the Grants Pass installation that the sculptures will not only "improve the bank's property, but also give the community a major piece of art."

"I think public art does a lot of good," Devine said. "It starts to change things. People start feeling better about their community. Visitors start feeling different as well."

It's also a way to showcase area talent, Devine added.

"It says something about who we are," he said.

While there is some concern about vandalism once the bronze bears are installed, Devine added, "You can't not do things out of fear."

The Evergreen project, he said is a step in the right direction toward helping make Cave Junction a "destination city" adding, "A theme is

really good if you can pull it off," noting that different themes have been tried here before that seemed to divide residents.

After months of researching and traveling to other cities with incorporated themes for his work with IVCRT, Devine said that as a gateway city to Oregon Caves National Monument, a "classic gateway" or "Northwest park" theme with a "Northwest rock-post-and-beam" style would remain true to the area's historic roots, which in turn, would attract investment and tourism dollars.

"This is a way to stop traffic or at least slow it down," Devine said.

Not to mention an improved feeling among those who live here.

Devine added that since area artist Sandy Kaminsky began creating his rock sculptures around downtown he's noticed a different attitude. Development on a larger-scale would only add to that, he said.

Devine, who has given presentations on the plan to various area clubs and organizations, noted he has received a good deal of support already for the project and hopes that if businesses make changes or renovations they are compatible with the Northwest theme.

"There are a bunch of people who've agreed to do it," he said.

And for the theme to be successful, Devine noted that there needs to be a collaboration among the Downtown businesses, the chamber of commerce, IVCRT and the city.



TYGRACHET LORENTZ



Roadside memorial

Family, I.V. mourn loss of girl, 13

Three classmates hurt in pickup truck rollover

Many in Illinois Valley are grieving with the family of 13-year-old Tygrachet Rose Lorentz.

She died when the pickup truck in which she was riding, driven by a boy, 13, went out of control and rolled several times, ending upside-down, causing injuries to her three fellow eighth-graders from Lorna Byrne Middle School.

Tygrachet was ejected from the vehicle. Reports were that her three classmates also were out of the pickup, including one who was walking for help, when he was picked up by a resident and taken to his home, where 911 was called. In addition, it is believed that a FedEx driver also reported the crash via a cell phone.

The family, including "Tiger's" parents, Bud and Wendy Lorentz of Cave Junction, are devastated by the death of Tygrachet (tie-grahshay). However, they said that they have had great cooperation and assistance from Josephine County Sheriff's Office detectives, but that they have had a different experience

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Health care, arts & crafts at Dome School bazaar

Dome School's Spring Bazaar on Saturday, May 3 will offer a little something extra this year.

Besides the Takilma event's arts-and-crafts staples, there will be an opportunity for people to learn about alternative health-care options in Illinois Valley.

"(It's) just to bring some extra life to our Spring Bazaar," said Dome School Board Secretary Cari Norton, who organized the gathering with Susan Gustafson.

With summer approaching, people are beginning to focus more on their health, and what better way to tie that in than with the spring celebration, she said.

Individual sessions with area herbalists, massage therapists, acupuncturists and other health-care practitioners will be provided at no charge. Free group workshops also are scheduled throughout the day.

At 10 a.m. massage therapist Rachel Goodman will share methods for improving eyesight. Thomas Garran will

give a native medicinal plants talk and slide show presentation at 10:45 a.m.

A discussion of pediatrics and traditional Chinese medicine with Jo Anne Stone will follow at noon. At 1:15 p.m., Goodman will discuss, "Massage Therapy and You."

An outside herb walk with Deb Lukas is scheduled at 1:45 p.m., followed by a discussion of treating PMS with herbs by Garran at 3 p.m.

"We're hoping that people will meet new health-care practitioners and find ways to help themselves become healthier," Norton said.

Also in store for those who attend -- some wholesome food from the school's kitchen, including Nori rolls.

Norton said she plans to make organic chicken soup for revelers.

The free Spring Health Faire and Bazaar presented by Dome School, 9367 Takilma Road, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone 592-3911 for more information.

--Britt Fairchild

City may take plunge into swimming pool operation

Mayor Ed Faircloth is diving into the possibility of the city of Cave Junction taking over Illinois Valley Swimming Pool from Josephine County.

He addressed the topic during the 20-minute council meeting in city hall on Monday night, April 28. Immediately before the session, councilors had met with county

commissioners and broached the matter.

Faircloth received council consensus, with Councilman Rita Dyer absent, to proceed with his study of the possibility. Meanwhile, the county board is being asked to again allocate \$20,000 to help operate the pool this season, said Julia Kirchner, pool manager.

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NEW AIRFIELD IN KERBY - Members of Rogue Valley Flyers were working on Sunday, April 27 at the former Kerby landfill at the end of Kerby Mainline Road, continuing their work on an airfield for radio-controlled model aircraft. The club has been working since 1999 and the site is now open for member pilots. Also the public can watch flyers. (Related photo on page 11)



SPRING RECYCLE ROUND-UP - Numerous volunteers assisted during the Saturday, April 26 recycle project at I.V. Visitor Center. Newspapers, magazines, cardboard, plastic bottles, tin cans and aluminum were among items brought. Co-sponsors were Southern Oregon Sanitation, IVCRT, I.V. Chamber of Commerce, and the I.V. Sierra Club.