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TRSD funds concern of city council

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

The potential magnitude of cuts next year at Illinois Valley schools was not lost on the Cave Junction City Council during its Monday night, May 12 meeting in city hall.

Ending on a somber note, councilmen Sandi Lund, Tony Paulson and Rita Dyer (Mayor Ed Faircloth and councilman Dan Fiske were absent) discussed writing a letter in support of saving the USAF Jr. ROTC program at I.V. High School from the chopping block next year.

It is one of several programs at area schools threatened by Three Rivers School District (TRSD) budget woes.

Lund, acting as Mayor Pro Tem in Faircloth's absence, explained she had received the request of the council's support prior to the meeting.

While she doesn't want ROTC to end, Dyer said sparing the program means another one is likely to get axed instead.

"Somewhere, something's going to get cut," she said. "They (TRSD) don't have the funds for everything."

Superintendent Dr. Dave Burgess announced at the April school district board meeting it will probably have to reduce its fiscal 2003-04 budget by approximately \$5.2 million.

In Cave Junction, that breaks down to a possible total loss of 10 to 12 teaching positions at Evergreen Elementary School, Lorna Byrne Middle School and IVHS. LBMS also faces losing its counseling position and extra-curricular activities. Sports and music programs may also be affected at the schools, Lund noted.

O'Brien resident Donna Pernicka, who has a son currently in ROTC, and two more waiting to participate, addressed the council in support of the program.

"ROTC has helped him greatly," she said of her son, adamant that she doesn't feel it's right to end the program that prepares area students for the military and defending the nation.

"Don't do this to our kids," she said.

In other business the council:

--Continued until the Tuesday, May 27 meeting a public hearing to consider a three-lot land partition at 810 S. Old Stage Road submitted by Karen Brooks. Both Brooks and the council had some questions and concerns regarding the condition of the road, fire hydrant placement and expenses.

--Approved adding a project for a four-unit health care facility for the Illinois Valley Medical Center to the city's "needs and issues" list for Community Block Grants. There can be a total of 10 projects on the list, said City Recorder Jim Polk, with a total of three receiving the grants. Projects to revitalize Down-

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Beauty after the 'Beast'



Don Heinze shows tree regrowth after the Biscuit Fire



RISING FROM THE ASHES, many wildflowers in Illinois River Canyon demonstrate their resiliency after the Biscuit Fire ravaged the area last summer. On Saturday, May 3 Don Heinze led a trio of hikers along four miles of Illinois River Trail in the Siskiyou National Forest, showing the diverse species of flora in bloom in the area. Among plants seen on the hike, sponsored by the Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, were the long, unpretentious false Solomon's seal (photo bottom left), and camas and miner's lettuce (photo bottom right).

(Photos by Britt Fairchild)

I.V. residents to greet, serve visitors at Caves

Oregon Caves Outfitters begins second year operating concessions at National Monument

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

It's an Illinois Valley thing at the Oregon Caves National Monument this season.

All of the 30 employees recently hired by Oregon Caves Outfitters to greet guests at the Chateau, cook and serve meals at the cafe, and help visitors select the perfect souvenir in the gift shop, live in the valley, according to General Manager Bill Hunt.

"That's exciting," Hunt said.

Having an all I.V. team, including those in management positions, not only generates a feeling of community for area residents who visit the monument, but also among tourists, he said.

People living in the valley know what's here and are more open to promoting other local sites and businesses, Hunt added, noting that educating valley visitors is a main goal of Oregon Caves Outfitters.

This is the second year Oregon Caves Outfitters, a program that developed through the I.V. Community Response Team, has operated the lodging and dining concessions at the monument.

It took over last year on a temporary contract after the former concessionaire chose not to reapply. It will maintain concessions operation until the Park Service awards a long-term concession contract in late summer.

The employees this sea-

son, Hunt added, vary in age from 16 years old to retirees.

"It's a really good spread," he said.

Along with valley hospitality, the monument will also offer visitors a peak into the creative worlds of area artists.

Some 60 Josephine County artists will have their work on display at the monument, Hunt said.

There are also plans to bring in several guest chefs, he said. Area resident and Western Culinary Institute graduate Chris Welcome was hired as the chef for the Mother's Day brunch at the Chateau.

"Keep your eyes open," Hunt said, noting the monument is comprised of "all the valley has to offer."

The Oregon Caves National Monument is located 20 miles east of Cave Junction at the end of Hwy. 46. The Chateau will open for full lodging and dining on Thursday, May 15. The gift gallery, cafe and other concessions are now open. Phone 592-3400 for more information.

Oregon Caves tour times
May 15 to May 23
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the hour
May 24 to June 20
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the hour
June 21 to Sept. 1
9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., 1/4 hour
Special evening tours 7 p.m.
Sept. 2 to Oct. 13
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the hour.
Oct. 14 to Nov. 30
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the hour.
Closed Thanksgiving Day

For more info. phone 592-2100

Deadline for ballots soon

Ballots for the special election are due by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20.

Ballots will not be counted if they aren't postmarked by the 20th or received at a ballot drop site location by 8 p.m. on election day.

A ballot box will be available at Cave Junction City Hall.

Although many of the candidates are running unopposed, they must still be elected.

Running unopposed for Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors, Position 4, is Joe Malcolm. The candidate for Position 5 is Joel Downing.

The candidate for Three Rivers School Board of Directors for Zone 2 is Jim Weaver. Running for Zone 4 is Dave Strahan.

I.V. residents will only vote for candidates in the two races listed above.

For more information, phone Josephine County Clerk and Recorder Georgette Brown at (541) 474-5243 or send her an e-mail at gbrown@co.josephine.or.us.

'Kindergarten Roundup' set for May 15

Evergreen Elementary School will hold a "Kindergarten Roundup" on Thursday, May 15 in the library.

Parents may register their child for kindergarten for the 2003-04 school year during the event. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1st.

The child's birth certificate and immunization records, as well as registration paperwork, will need to be complete before the child can attend school.

Children will not be assigned a teacher until all complete paperwork is returned to the office. All immunizations have to be complete prior to the child attending school, with absolutely no exceptions.

Parents are strongly encouraged to bring the incoming kindergarten child to the roundup as they will be introduced to the kindergarten teacher, and be given a tour of the school. Ruthe McBride, RN, will also be available to give immunizations that may be needed.

The roundup, which will include an informational session, preview of lunch procedure, registration and a tour of the school, will be held from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Registration packets are available prior to the roundup in the Evergreen Elementary office. For more information phone 592-3136.

Look for the new 'Noose' feature, "The Bookworm," presented by the I.V. branch of the Josephine County Library, on page 12.