

# Hamilton picks Kent State University

Multi-sport senior at IVHS earns a scholarship for her softball prowess

By STEVE FAIRCHILD  
Staff Writer

Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) senior Kim Hamilton has signed a letter of intent to play softball for Kent State University.

Kent State, a Division I school, is the second largest public university in Ohio. The school's softball team finished with an overall record of 27-19 in its division in 2003.

Hamilton said she was recruited by the school after competing during the summer on a Portland-based club softball team called Strictly Softball. She made her choice official Tuesday night, Nov. 18 with the support of her father Marshall Hamilton. (Her mother died when she was a toddler.)

"My dad likes it a lot," she said. "When I decided to sign he said 'that's a good decision.'"

According to her contract, her scholarship will pay for 80 percent of her



Kim Hamilton

schooling each year, she said. She will be responsible for an additional \$4,000 per year. She will pursue grants and other scholarships to help cover the costs, she said. She plans on majoring in sports medicine.

Hamilton moved to Illinois Valley when she was 5 years old from Santa Cruz, Calif. She has been playing softball since she was 6 years old.

In addition to softball, she is on the basketball, volleyball and track teams at IVHS.

Why did she choose to

further a career in softball instead of other sports?

"Softball just comes naturally to me," she said.

Her list of accomplishments at IVHS is long and includes All-State in softball for two years as a utility player, First-Team All-Conference in track, Second-Team All-Conference in softball as pitcher and First-Team All-League in basketball and volleyball. She also set the record in javelin at IVHS and placed fifth in state for javelin.

Hamilton, whose cumulative grade point average as a junior was 3.83, will start at her new school in August. Until then she looks forward to a successful basketball season.

The Cougars will begin their season at the Gold Beach Tournament on Dec. 5. "We have a lot of potential," Hamilton said of her basketball team. "We don't have the height again this year but we are definitely quick."

# Home for the holidays: Evan Loock returns after Operation Iraqi Freedom

By STEVE FAIRCHILD  
Staff Writer

Illinois Valley residents Randy and Janis Loock and their family are planning on having an extra special Thanksgiving this year.

On Monday, Nov. 24., the Loock's son, Evan, was scheduled to arrive at the Medford airport after serving five months in the United States Army in Iraq.

A U.S. Army Specialist, Evan Loock served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 28 to September 10 as a member of Bandit Troop 1-1 Calvary Regiment in which he performed maintenance on tanks.

He has been stationed

in Budingon, Germany since leaving Iraq. He will be coming home for good having served his three years in the military.

Janis said getting by was difficult for the family while her son was away at war.

"My husband would get up every morning and put on the news," she said of those tense days. "I couldn't watch it. One person in his troop got killed."

Janis added that Evan wrote and phoned often to tell them about the conditions in Iraq, including fighting in 14-degree weather.

Evan has been recommended for several awards due to his exceptional service in Iraq by his platoon

sergeant.

One recommendation states: "... SPC Loock's true drive and determination were instrumental in the platoons success against anti-coalition forces leading to the capture of 22 enemy prisoners while responding to a convoy ambush in southern Baghdad. His expertise and composure allowed him to conduct all military operations as safe as possible and accident free..."

Evan joined the Army with Nathan Watkins after their senior year at Illinois Valley High School.

Watkins has been stationed in Georgia after fighting in Kosovo. He is scheduled to come home in April.

## LEGAL NOTICE

# Open House!

Josephine County

Rural Transportation System Plan



You are invited to attend an informal open house meeting to discuss a plan being developed for future improvements to the transportation system within rural Josephine County.

The County is currently studying alternatives for maintaining the current transportation system, improving safety, and accommodating future growth.

Recommendations have been prepared for how to improve the system, and how to pay for it in the future. The County would like to hear your opinions!

For More Information, Contact:  
Steve Hodge, County Engineer  
Phone: (541) 474-5460  
E-mail: publicworks@co.josephine.or.us

The Open House will be at three convenient locations:

Tue., Dec. 2 • 5 - 7 p.m.  
Three Rivers School District  
8550 New Hope Rd., G.P.  
(the District Conference Rm.)

Wed., Dec. 3 • 5 - 7 p.m.  
North Valley High School  
6741 Monument Dr., G.P.  
(the Commons Rm.)

Thurs., Dec. 4 • 5 - 7 p.m.  
Illinois Valley High School  
625 E. River Rd., C.J.  
(the Commons Rm.)

# ODA addresses pesticide enforcement, fees

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) adopted permanent rules that increase various pesticide license fees and address enforcement issues related to the pesticide use reporting system (PURS)

following public hearings and testimony previously received.

ODA also adopted a temporary rule and is proposing a permanent rule that reduces the pesticide product registration fee

beginning in 2004.

License fee increases have been adopted to help maintain ODA's base pesticide regulatory program at current levels.

Program activities include pesticide product registration, user licensing, investigations, and enforcement.

License types with increased fees include commercial pesticide operator and applicator, commercial pesticide trainee, public pesticide applicator, public pesticide trainee, pesticide dealer, and pesticide consultant. ODA had not increased any of these license fees since 1982.

Reflecting a lack of available funds to provide a fully developed pesticide use reporting system, ODA has adopted a rule stating that no enforcement action will be taken against those who fail to report their pesticide use for 2002, 2003, and any other year in which insufficient funds are available to provide a fully effective means for pesticide users to report.

Although Oregon law still requires pesticide use reporting, no current system is available to file pesticide use reports with ODA.

Meanwhile, ODA has adopted a temporary rule that reduces the fee for registering a pesticide product beginning in 2004.

ODA has proposed a permanent rule to reflect the pesticide registration fee change and a public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 25 in Salem.

Written comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Send comments to ODA, Pesticides Division, 635 Capitol St. N.E., Salem, OR 97301-2532.

## FAC to begin tree planting

Forestry Action Committee will meet on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. in the lower compound of the Illinois Valley Ranger District building, 26568 Redwood Hwy.

The Tree-Planting Project has begun and is looking for volunteers.

The public can attend the meeting. Phone 592-4098 for more information.

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**Biscuit Fire Recovery Project**

Rogue River & Siskiyou National Forests & Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the recovery of the Biscuit Fire area has been released for a 45-day public comment period. It includes seven alternatives that propose different levels of management activities designed to restore and improve federal lands in Oregon affected by the 2002 Biscuit Fire.

**We are actively seeking your comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.**

The comment period begins Nov. 22 and ends Jan. 5, 2004. All written substantive comments received about the document will be considered as we further analyze a range of alternatives that integrate ecological, social, and economic issues into proposed recovery projects. Five meetings are planned to assist the public to better understand the document. The first four are open houses designed as informal, one-to-one question and answer sessions with resource specialists. These open houses will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

<b>December 3</b> County Building 102 S. Redwood Hwy Cave Junction, OR	<b>December 9</b> Chetoo Public Library 405 Alder Brookings, OR
<b>December 4</b> Josephine County Fairgrounds Floral Building 1415 Fairgrounds Road Grants Pass, OR	<b>December 10</b> Curry County Fairgrounds Showcase Room 29392 Ellensburg Ave. Gold Beach, OR

At the fifth public meeting, representatives from the Forest Service will listen and record comments as individuals from the audience are given a three-minute opportunity to comment on the DEIS. This meeting is scheduled for:

**December 17, 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm**  
Josephine County Fairgrounds  
Pavilion Building  
1415 Fairgrounds Road  
Grants Pass, OR.

Your written comments can be e-mailed to: "r6\_biscuit@fs.fed.us"; mailed to: Scott Conroy, Forest Supervisor, in care of ACT2 Enterprise Team, P.O. Box 377, Happy Camp, CA 96039; or FAXed to (530) 493-1776.

For more information about public meeting dates and locations, or to view the DEIS with detailed maps, visit "www.biscuitfire.com" or call (541) 471-6500 to request a paper copy or CD version of the DEIS.

IBIC Forestry Action Committee  
Annual Riparian Restoration  
TREE PLANTING

IT'S OUR 12th ANNIVERSARY!

**TREE PLANTING TIME IS NEAR!**

THE COMMUNITY'S 12th ANNUAL  
RIPARIAN TREE PLANTING PROJECT IS HERE!

The Forestry Action Committee's First Distribution Event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12 & 13.

JUST AS BEFORE, OUR GOAL IS TO IMPROVE, ENHANCE, AND MAINTAIN the health of the waterways of the beautiful Illinois Valley

THE FORESTRY ACTION COMMITTEE NEEDS HELP FROM LANDOWNERS - VOLUNTEERS - ANYONE INTERESTED

We will need help from volunteers through various stages of the project for tree care, planting, crew coordination, and project activities.

We are looking for planting sites along Illinois Valley rivers, streams, wetlands, and ponds. The Forestry Action Committee offers free riparian consultation and **FREE TREE SEEDLINGS!**

(Native hardwoods and conifers will be available from December to March)

**Let's continue our community's tradition of success!**

For more information or to participate phone Joe Anderson or Wayne Fitzpatrick at **592-4098**

GRANT FUNDING PROVIDED BY:  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

**'Together we can do a lot'**

**'PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE PLANT TREES'**