



Principals JoAnn Bethany, Illinois Valley High School; Peter Maluk, Lorna Byrne Middle School; and Lisa VanBrunt, Evergreen Elementary (Shane Welsh photo)

Educational report card

(Continued from page 1)

Just two years ago, the schools met the requirement of 90 percent, set forth by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Last year, the minimum standard was raised to 92 percent, making it more difficult for schools to meet it.

Three Rivers School District consistently receives 91 percent or better for student behavior. Even though children are meeting academic requirements, schools are being painted negatively because they are falling just below the new rating.

Evergreen Elementary Principal Lisa Van Brunt said, "It is a strange kind of accountability. We have no funding for truancy officers. Our agencies who could or should help us, do not have the ability to help us.

"Absence is almost always a parent issue and very rarely a child issue; most kids want to come to school. There are even kids who cry and say, 'My mommy won't fix me breakfast, my mommy won't help me get dressed, or my daddy won't take me to school'."

Although it's illegal for parents to keep their

children out of school, other than for illness, bereavement, or other emergencies, there is little in place to enforce the law.

Peter Maluk, Lorna Byrne Middle School principal said, "In December, we had a major statewide flu epidemic; before that, we were over 93 percent for student behavior."

"In my school," said Van Brunt, "over one-third of my students were absent in one day. That's over 150 kids. That was more than double the average for over a week, which can really trash an attendance record. For December, my average dropped to 85 percent because of the flu."

Despite the negative averages, I.V. schools are doing well academically. There is a five-year consistent growth in reading and math.

"Compared to other schools, we are passing by a huge margin," Maluk noted.

Said IVHS Principal JoAnn Bethany, "We take real pride in what we do here and what our kids accomplish through our leadership.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't always appear that way through these formal types of reports."

SORED I EZ head appointed

In a 5-0 decision, the Cave Junction City Council confirmed Gordon Safely, of Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SORED I), to serve as the

Enterprise Zone manager for the Josephine Champion Enterprise Zone (EZ).

Safely replaces the retiring Al Koski, who served as manager for the EZ since its inception.

Transport plan topic for county

By SHANE WELSH

To accommodate anticipated future transportation needs, Josephine County Planning Commission is looking to adopt a revised Rural Transportation System Plan.

Josephine County Planning Commission met Monday night, Feb. 9 in the Anne G. Basker auditorium in Grants Pass to review and approve a draft proposal for a 20-year Josephine County Transportation System Plan (TSP) for rural Josephine County.

The plan addresses the needs for all modes of transportation in the county including cars and trucks, public transit, bicycles, pedestrians, railways, aviation, and water and pipeline facilities.

Employees of Josephine County Public Works were present to present proposed adjustments to the TSP and explain the need for future projects and funding.

"Approximately 2/3 of funding for projects is going away in 2007," said Ann Sylvester of Josephine County Public Works Dept. "We can't even maintain what we have."

The recommendations focused on three tiers of county investment:

*Tier 1: would use existing funds which only meet part of current county maintenance needs.

*Tier 2: covers all necessary maintenance and other critical, high-priority improvements.

*Tier 3: would provide funds for lower-priority projects.

Tier 2 was strongly recommended as a means to provide transportation improvements and establish the need to fund current transportation maintenance as well as proposed future projects.

Under Tier 2 investment, the county would emphasize roadway maintenance including minor improvements such as resurfacing, drainage, widening and truck freight movement.

Tier 2 would also include top-priority improvements such as bridge repair or replacement of local bridges, correction of safety problems, improvements to turn lanes and railroad crossings, and congestion problems.

Future meetings will be held to allow for public input and discussion of the proposed TSP.

Approximately 60 people attended the 2 1/2-hour public session.

Clubs & Groups

I.V. Garden Club Illinois Valley Garden Club is continuing its "Getting Your Garden Ready" program on Friday, Feb. 20 with co-hostesses Gayl Bohy and Diane Notte.

The program will highlight grafting, cuttings and planting seeds.

Members can participate by bringing seed catalogs and arrangements which incorporate a favorite gardening tool to share at the horticulture show and tell table.

The club meets on third Fridays at Immanuel

(Continued on page 20)



'KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD' - An example of what happens when you glance away 'just for a second.' The driver, Julie Gillespie of California, was northbound on Redwood Hwy. near milepost 22 Wednesday, Feb. 4 when, in a moment of inattention, the vehicle hit the gravel shoulder, overcorrected and swerved across both lanes of Redwood Hwy., and struck an embankment before coming to rest in a ditch, according to Oregon State Police. Neither Gillespie nor her feline passenger were reported injured, and no other vehicles were involved. (Photo by Shane Welsh)

I.V. Volunteer Firefighters to the Rescue

Wednesday, Feb. 4 *3:58 p.m., public aid 6000 block Rockydale Road. *12:08 p.m., medical aid Redwood Hwy./Gold Canyon. *8:24 p.m., medical aid 200 block Ollis Road.	*2:33 p.m., medical aid 500 block W. River St. *2:45 p.m., district-wide medical standby. *9:23 p.m., medical aid on Aquarius Way.	Sunday, Feb. 8 *3:40 a.m., medical aid 5900 block Deer Creek Road. *7:28 a.m., medical aid 200 block Crest Drive. *3:47 p.m., medical aid 1800 block Laurel Road. *5:08 p.m., medical aid 8600 block Takilma Road.
Thursday, Feb. 5 *10:22 p.m., smoke investigation 3900 block Westside Road. *11:42 p.m., public aid on Pinewood Way. *12:37 p.m., structure fire Downtown CJ. *1 p.m., medical aid 300 block S. Redwood Hwy.	Friday, Feb. 6 *3:30 p.m., medical aid 1200 block Arrowhead Drive. *5:35 p.m., motor vehicle accident Redwood Hwy./Laurel Road. *5:52 p.m., open burn 100 block Illinois River Road.	Monday, Feb. 9 *1:37 a.m., medical aid 24000 block Redwood Hwy. *4:56 a.m., medical aid on Sherwood Avenue. *6:59 a.m., smoke investigation 3500 block Deer Creek Road.
Saturday, Feb. 7 *11:27 a.m., medical aid 8600 block Takilma Road.		

Deadly poison discovered at U.S. Senate

Ricin, a deadly poison derived from castor beans, was discovered Monday, Feb. 2 in Senate office buildings in Washington, D.C.

Sen. Ron Wyden (R-Ore.) issued a statement following discovery of the poison in the mailroom for Sen. Bill Frist's office.

The U.S. Capitol Police closed all Senate office buildings, sending 16 employees through decontamination procedures.

"Every member of my staff - and all members of Congress and their staffs - go to work each day with the knowledge that there are those who would threaten their lives in order to weaken our democracy," said Wyden.

"In the meantime, keeping Senate employees healthy and safe is most important, and the Senate offices will reopen when their safety is assured," he said.

Clouser
Calling

Locally owned and operated in the Valley for over 25 years.

Water Wells Pump Sales Installation Service
592-6777
1470 Caves Highway
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
WWC #1504 • CCB #152266 • CFI #7-113
Member Oregon Ground Water Assoc.

•MATTRESS SETS •BEDROOM COLLECTIONS

•FUTONS •BUNKBEDS •DAYBEDS

•WALL BEDS •SOFA SLEEPERS •FIREPLACES

BEDS FOR LESS
www.bedsforless.com /Open 7 Days
Grants Pass Shopping Center (next to Staples)
541-474-1060
also in Medford & Grants Pass

**Junction Inn
Timber Room Lounge**
406 S. Redwood Hwy.
592-3106 Ext. 202

THE FUN MUST GO ON!
WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL

HERE ARE THE FUN EVENTS:
Sunday - Thursday - FREE appetizer specials 6 to 7 p.m. - ONLY!
Every Thursday - Karaoke Night with April Fisher - 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14 - VALENTINE PARTY
*Live Music
*Games & Prizes
*Love Stories
*Surprises
*Love Riots'

Feb. 13 and 14 - Tide Water Groove Band Rock, Country and Blues (will play upon request)
Feb. 20 and 21 - 'JUST U n I'
Feb. 27 - Private Party (invitation only) 'IMBAS'
Feb. 28 - Our own 'IMBAS' band
March 5 and 6 - In Flight Band
12 and 13 - Southern Oregon Blues Band
19 and 20 - Jupiter Hollow Band
26 and 27 - In Flight Band
DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Wear a smile, or you're not fully dressed.

1000 ANYTIME MINUTES
for just ~~\$39.95~~ **\$29.95/mo.***
For the first three months with a 2-year service agreement.

FREE Kyocera® Phantom with FULL COLOR SCREEN**
after \$30 mail-in rebate.

Plus
your choice of
UNLIMITED Incoming Calls
OR
UNLIMITED Nights & Weekends
beginning at 7pm.

Plan includes:

- Nationwide Long Distance
- Unlimited Incoming Text Messages
- Voice Mail
- Caller ID

U.S. Cellular
AUTHORIZED AGENT

*Promotional rate plan and phone offer requires a two-year consumer service agreement. \$10 access discount valid for the first 3 months of the 2-year contract. Promotional rate plan is available to new customers and existing customers eligible for a new promotion. Choice of unlimited nights and weekends or unlimited incoming minutes is only available on promotional rate plan. Unlimited incoming minutes are valid only for calls received while within your local calling area. Night and weekend minutes are valid M-F 7pm to 6:59am and all day Saturday and Sunday. Night and weekend minutes are valid only for calls made from within your local calling area. Offers may expire if you change your calling plan. \$30 activation fee or \$15 equipment charge fee applies. Roaming charges, fees, surcharges and taxes may apply, including a Federal and Other Regulatory Fee charge of \$3.00. All service agreements subject to an early termination fee. **Promotional phone subject to change. Phone pricing includes a \$30 mail-in rebate. Customer is responsible for all sales taxes. Other restrictions may apply. See store for details. Limited time offer. ©2003 U.S. Cellular Corporation

C.J. Video Mart & Radio Shack
145 N. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction 592-2233
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Fri. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.