

Business site due for Illinois Valley

(Continued from page 1)

However, completion date for construction tentatively is set for late summer or early fall.

“We want to erect a building with approximately 11,000 square feet that will house a business incubator at the industrial park by the airport,” said Bob Schumacher, IVCDO executive director.

“There are facilities like this all around the world,” he said. “It’s kind of a generic term, but it’s mainly for people who started a business and have outgrown their garage, but are not ready to go out and buy their own factory or storefront yet.

“With the business incubator, people can rent space to conduct business activity; and the good part of it is that they have access to business consulting and advice services that are provided with the incubator project.”

According to Schumacher, once the “incubator” is up and running, somebody will always be available to help small business owners with marketing, finances or other skills needed for business

success.

If they’re unable to help, they’ll direct the business owners to someone who can.

The idea of the business incubator is quite simple, Schumacher said.

“Most small businesses know how to make a prod-



uct,” he said, “but sometimes they lack the info to turn it from a hobby into a self-supporting business.

“The goal is to help people and businesses grow and outgrow the space in the incubator and find a larger space. We want to help these individuals, because in return, they’ll help create more jobs.”

And, he added, creating jobs brings more income to the valley.

“Another goal,” Schumacher continued, “is to have businesses ready to move in prior to finishing the building. We have several businesses that we’ve been talking to, but nothing is set in stone yet. The initial businesses in the incubator will have a lot of influence as to how we partition the building and maybe how electrical outlets are placed and so forth.”

Typically, businesses will stay in an incubator for a period of three years. But, Schumacher said, “That varies for each business. They may only need one year or they may need up to five years.”

According to Schumacher, funding for the project came from three main sources: the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, the rural investment fund from the state and the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition, the project is being developed in conjunction with Josephine County, since it owns the industrial park land, according to Schumacher.

For more information on the business incubator, contact Bill Moore, business consultant for IVCDO, at 592-4440.



BEYOND FIRST AID - Four Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) volunteers ‘graduated’ from a 100-hour ‘First Responder’ medical aid course taught by Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik. Graduates (seated from left) are Caryn Gumaer, Gerald Bjornstad, Kathy Pangburn and Nick Bjornstad. The written test was on Jan. 27, and the final, practical test on Saturday, Jan. 29. Those behind the four are instructors and evaluators. Delaine Sherman (left) evaluates Pangburn. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers)

Gov. Kulongoski criticized by OSBA on lack of funding for Oregon education

By OREGON STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

In his State of the State address, the governor has made it clear that public schools will have to get by with less.

Gov. Kulongoski acknowledged that his budget proposal, which provides \$5 billion for schools, isn’t enough, “but it is all we can afford.”

The governor said that he understands that “the state of education in Oregon will become -- if it isn’t already -- the most important measure of the state of our state.” But he is not ready to fight to make sure Oregon schools have a stable and well-funded K-12 system.

His list of efficiencies, including a vague reference to consolidating “most central office administrative services” and creating “an electronic data system to track and manage student

progress” will in no way fill the gap between the governor’s \$5 billion K-12 proposal and what is needed to move public education forward in Oregon.

His \$5 billion K-12 budget proposal does not help us meet the demands of the higher accountability standards in the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

It represents real cuts in the classroom. It will affect the variety of classes offered to students. Again. Each district will deal with those cuts differently, but we know this will have an effect on our students.

As long as we continue to underfund schools, we will short-change our children. School boards will do their best -- again -- to protect the classrooms, but each year schools are underfunded that becomes more difficult.

OSBA, along with many organizations, op-

posed the governor’s government-run health insurance pool in the 2003 Legislature, and we will oppose it again in the 2005 legislative session.

Why?

It does not address the real cost-drivers behind skyrocketing insurance rates (aging employees, increasing costs of prescription drugs, use of expensive high-tech medical procedures; an Oregon law that requires school districts to keep retirees current employees.)

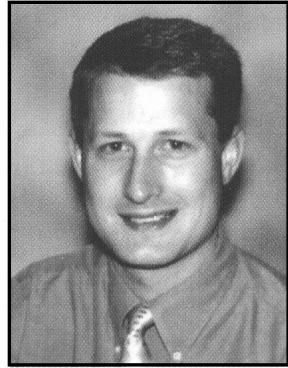
*It creates a government-run monopoly much like the former out-of-control Public Employees Retirement System.

*A government-run monopoly stifles free-market competition and eliminates the ability of local carriers to offer cost-effective plans to local districts.

*OSBA’s pooling efforts already provide the economies of scale available for a large pool that offers a limited variety of plan offerings.

*If the governor’s program is fashioned after the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) rate structure, the OSBA Health Insurance Trust already has better premium rates. The OSBA Insurance Trust average monthly premium rate for 2004-05 is \$743. The PEBB average for 2005 is \$818.

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IVCDO Meeting Schedule

Making Things Happen!
February, 2005

Day	Date	Meeting	Time	Location
Thurs	2/3	Workshop	7:00-9:00PM	County Bldg
Tues	2/8	Executive Comm	5:30-6:30PM	IVCDO
Wed	2/9	Social Ventures	5:30-6:30PM	IVCDO
Thurs	2/17	Board Meeting	7:00-9:00PM	County Bldg
Mon	2/21	Community Relations	5:30-6:30PM	IVCDO
Tue	2/22	Projects & Programs	5:30-6:30PM	IVCDO

Septic system revisions by DEQ allow alternative treatment technology use

Rules governing the installation and use of septic systems have been revised by Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Most of the revised on-site wastewater treatment rules will go into effect March 1 statewide. They include a simplified permitting process for new septic system technologies, development of a third-party certification process for septic system installers and maintenance providers, and more streamlined administration of the program in general.

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission approved the revisions during its December 2004 meeting. Its approval was the culmination of a long process involving stakeholder committees and a comprehensive evaluation of the program to improve the way it operates and to allow for new technologies, DEQ said.

The revisions have resulted in changes in the program’s administrative fee structure, with a net decrease in administrative fees. In order to implement some of the streamlining and allow new technologies, several fees were eliminated, while some new fee categories were added.

The revisions allow for new septic system technologies, known as alternative

treatment technologies, to be used throughout Oregon. These technologies may be used in sites with soil and groundwater limitations, including areas where sand filter systems are appropriate, said DEQ.

The agency said that it has simplified the permitting

process for implementing these technologies, which serve residences and small commercial facilities. Under the new permitting process, property owners contract with a certified maintenance provider to ensure that the system is operating appropriately.



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