



Three Illinois Valley High School seniors, (at left, from left) , Meghan Jackson, Serena Barry and Ricci Coultas, were honored at their last home softball game Thursday, May 12 (Photo by Justine Johnson.) The seniors and their parents (top photo) got together for combined congratulations. The Cougars (bottom) out-hit their opponent to move into first place in the Skyline Conference.



Cougar softball team roars to 1st spot

Illinois Valley High School’s softball team moved into first place in the Skyline Conference Thursday, May 12 by beating Phoenix 4-3 in Cave Junction.

The Cougars stand at 12-4, a half-game ahead of the Pirates’ 11-4. If both squads win their remaining games (I.V. has two; Phoenix three) and finish in a tie, the Pirates would be the #1 seed for the Class 3-A state playoffs because of beating I.V. in two of three games.

The I.V. win Thursday came at the bottom of the seventh, when Jessica Ragsdale scored on a passed ball. Pirate coach Molly Pendergast protested because she didn’t slide, but officials ruled her safe. Serena Barry held Phoenix to six hits, improving her record to 13-5. And Shannon Loock had two hits, including a double, for the Cougars.

Prior to the start of last week’s softball game, the three seniors on the Illinois Valley High School team

were honored, with their parents, as it was the last home game this season.

*Meghan Jackson began playing softball for IVHS as a freshman. In the same year, she was cited as an “Outstanding Outfielder.” In her sophomore year, she was honored with a Skyline All-Conference Honorable Mention for her performance at third base.

In 2004, her junior year brought her another All-Conference Honorable Mention for second base.

After high school, Jackson wants to attend Southwestern Community College in Coos Bay, where she plans to obtain an associate of arts degree in fitness management before transferring to a university to finish her studies. She also hopes to play softball for Southwestern.

*Serena Barry has played softball at IVHS for two years, and although she has acquired no high school accolades for her abilities as of yet, this year she is proving herself to be a leader and

pivotal member of her team.

She has the respect of her coaches and peers alike. In the fall, Serena plans to attend Seattle University, where she intends to pursue a degree in journalism/broadcasting.

*Ricci Coultas also began playing softball for IVHS as a freshman. That year she was named “Most Improved Player” and honored with a Skyline All-Conference Honorable Mention for catching.

In 2003, Coultas was named the “Most Inspirational Player” and again received a Skyline All-Conference Honorable Mention.

In 2004, her junior year, she was again awarded “Most Inspirational Player,” and was picked to receive a Skyline All-Conference Second Team honor for her performance as a catcher.

She will leave in the fall to attend Queens University of Charlotte, N.C. to earn her degree in business administration, and continue playing softball.

Work on three new I.V. fire stations proceeding well; occupancy near

Construction on three new stations for Illinois Valley District (IVFD) generally is ahead of schedule; and part of the old, current Station 1 in Cave Junction is dangerously dilapidated.

So reported Chief Harry Rich during a board meeting at IVFD headquarters Thursday night, May 12.

Station 1, plus Stations 2 and 3 in Selma and O’Brien, being built by Batzer Construction Inc., of Medford, are progressing well, the chief said.

It appears that the district will be able to move into the apparatus bay of Station 1 in approximately two weeks. However, the crew quarters -- which will be staffed full time, said Rich -- will not be ready, along with the rest of the station, until mid-July.

Meanwhile, the rear of the existing CJ station, which is some 56 years old, “is dangerously close to falling down,” Rich said. The IVFD board agreed with him that nearly all of the old station should be secured as

soon as possible to keep people out. Some walls will be removed, he said.

In a related matter, Rich said that an IVFD contract with American Medical Response (AMR), to house ambulances at Station 1, will be sent next week, as the IVFD attorney has reviewed it.

“At the next board meeting (June 9),” said the chief, “we should have a signed contract.” AMR plans to leave its current valley station at Cave Junction City Hall.

Rich said that Station 2 should be ready for occupancy by June 15. And it’s anticipated that the O’Brien station will be finished by the third week of July.

In related matters, Directors Larrick Jones and Don Haviland will help the chief select an I.V. real estate agent to handle the sale of the property on which the current Selma station is located.

Proceeds from the sale of the property will be used, said the chief, to purchase

new breathing apparatus for firefighters. Under federal age and use requirements, the district must replace 30 of them -- comprised of a mask, backpack and air bottle. Each unit costs approximately \$3,000, Rich said.

In addition, the chief said he wants to use proceeds to purchase stoves and refrigerators, and lockers, for the new stations. He also wants to add landscaping.

In yet another related item, Rich advised the board that the first-run engines from Cave Junction and Selma will be paid off in 2007. He asked permission to set up a plan with the vendor so that continued payments would be rolled over into a fund.

It would be used, Rich said, for a building fund to construct a new administrative center adjacent to the new CJ station. IVFD currently uses the former Fire Mt. Gems facility on Redwood Hwy. a short distance south of Downtown CJ.

The board tacitly agreed to the proposal.

Chief Rich ‘outstanding,’ say directors

With an overall evaluation of “outstanding,” Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) directors voted 5-0 to retain Chief Harry Rich permanently in the post he has held since March 1.

Directors took the action during their meeting Thursday night, May 12 at IVFD headquarters.

Results came by compiling and comparing evaluations of each of the five IVFD directors, said Chairman Joe Malcolm.

“Our conclusion,” he

said, “shows that the results overall are ‘outstanding.’”

The chief said he would like to meet with each director individually to review their evaluations. Malcolm indicated agreement, and told Rich to go ahead and make the arrangements.

The chief’s annual salary is approximately \$52,000.

In another matter the board agreed with a recommendation by Rich that only the five elected board members can sign on any IVFD

bank account.

In addition, directors agreed that only the chief, the deputy chief or their designees are authorized to access data about the transfer of funds or obtain financial information about IVFD business.

The chief is authorized to transfer funds from one account to another. He added that there will be monthly reviews coming on assets and the status of the IVFD checking and savings accounts.

Wrestlers grapple for down under

Saturday, May 7 was a big day for Wescott Lynch and Sam Green, two Illinois Valley High School wrestlers raising money so that they can compete in the invitational International Games Down Under.

The day started early with a Stevereno’s Family Restaurant breakfast buffet benefit, and then at noon they headed to Redwood Hwy. Choppers for a fund-raiser.

Between the two events the wrestlers raised more than \$2,000. The many businesses who made it possible are appreciated, especially Stevereno’s and Redwood Hwy. Choppers for their time and effort.

Select Market, Shop Smart Food Warehouse, Taylor’s Sausage, Isaac’s and other businesses donated food and supplies to make the fund-raiser a success. There are also many

(Continued on page 12)

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Campus News

**Calhoun Honored By
The University of Findlay**

Chelsea Calhoun, of Selma, was recognized during an Honors & Awards Assembly for her participation in the Honors Program at The University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio.

Calhoun, a 2003 graduate of St. Mary’s High School in Medford, is the daughter of Michael and Susan Calhoun, of Selma. She is a sophomore majoring in equestrian studies/education.

To the uneducated, an ‘A’ is just three sticks.

- A.A. Milne -

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