



LORNA BYRNE MIDDLE SCHOOL last week honored its December Students of the Month. They are (rear, from left) seventh-graders Taylor Harris and Brittany Mosely, and eighth-graders Robert Sanders and

Brianna Andrews; and (front) sixth-graders Jessica Myers and Andrew Mullins. The students were recognized for factors including attendance, demeanor, and scholastic achievement. (Illinois Valley News' photos)



HAY'S HILL CRASHES - Two motor vehicle accidents on Hwy. 199 on Hay's Hill were among a number of mishaps during the past several days because of rain and icy roads. On Wednesday, Dec. 14, emergency personnel responded to a single-vehicle accident (photo above) near the top of the hill. The driver was Olivia Taylor-Young, 68, of Cave Junction. Her car spun out after running into black ice. American Medical Response (AMR) took her to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass, where she was treated and released. She praised Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and AMR for quick response, and was especially thankful to two firefighters who were behind her car and immediately rendered aid. The other accident on Hay's Hill (bottom photo) occurred Sunday, Dec. 18. Details were not immediately available. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD)



Wyden endorses border enforcement

As part of continuing effort to increase security along U.S. borders and curb illegal immigration, 2nd District Congressman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) became an original co-sponsor of the True Enforcement and Border Security Act, H.R. 4313, introduced by Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.).

The act addresses many key issues surrounding enhanced immigration control including the completion of additional fencing along the southern U.S. border, sharply increasing the number of border patrol agents and detention capabilities, and eliminating benefits that entice illegal immigrants to America, Walden said.

"Illegal immigrants continue to cross our nation's borders, creating an overwhelming burden on taxpayers through increased costs of education and health care, and, most importantly, they can pose a threat to homeland security," said Walden.

"Enhanced patrols, greater authority to local

officials, the construction of additional physical barriers along the border, and many other provisions in H.R. 4313 will help curb illegal immigration," said Walden, a member of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus.

"While there is no 'silver bullet' in the fight against illegal immigration, the True Enforcement and Border Security Act will go a long way toward advancing our efforts," said Walden.

The act, he said, is a comprehensive piece of legislation drafted in a collaborative process that takes into consideration the many different legislative proposals suggested in the House and Senate this year.

Among points, H.R. 4313 would:

- *Create a border security zone from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico with 25 additional ports of entry, calling on the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) to incorporate fencing, roads and technology

infrastructure along the nation's border with Mexico.

- *Authorize 5,000 new border patrol officers, 1,250 immigration investigators, 500 adjudicators and 2,000 worksite investigators.

- *Affirm inherent authority of state and local law enforcement to enforce immigration laws and require reimbursement to such agencies for their cooperation in immigration enforcement.

- *Withhold funding from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program from states and localities with sanctuary policies to protect illegal or criminal aliens.

- *Halt current "catch-and-release" practices by increasing federal detention space.

- *Make illegal immigration less attractive by withholding U.S. citizenship from babies born on U.S. soil to illegal aliens.

- *Prevent illegal aliens from collecting Social Security and claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Expertise of Dr. Miller at SCHC noted

A recent certification exam shows that Dr. Kristin Miller, of Siskiyou Community Health Center (SCHC), earned the highest scores among the approximately 7,000 physicians taking the exam during 2005.

Miller, a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician, was notified about her certification exam test scores by the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Certification Exam. She was ranked at the 100th percentile.

To be Board Certified by ABFM, a physician must complete a Family Medicine residency program and pass the certification exam. A physician must earn 300 hours of continuing medical education and pass the (Re) Certification Exam, a day-long test covering all aspects of family medicine, every seven years to maintain certification.

Miller earned bachelor of science and doctor of medicine degrees at University of Wisconsin in Madison. Her graduation honor was "With Distinction." Following completion of her Family Medicine Residency at Truman Medical Center-East at University of Missouri-Kansas City, she joined SCHC in 1999.

Miller continues to see patients at SCHC's Grants Pass clinic site.

"As long as I can remember, I have wanted to become a physician," said Miller. "And I always saw myself in a primary-care setting, taking care of families. And that's what I do here every day," Miller said.

SCHC is a federally qualified health center with medical clinics in Cave Junction and Grants Pass, a dental clinic in Grants Pass, a student health center at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction, and extensive outreach programs.

Asthma help

Nearly 5 million U.S. children under 18 suffer from asthma, causing them to miss school -- 14 million absences per year.

Although there is no known cure for asthma, Dr. Michael Kaliner, medical director of the Institute for Asthma and Allergy in Chevy Chase, Md., said that one option for children 5 years and older is Intal.

"It works by preventing certain cells from releasing substances that may cause inflammation in the air passages," Kaliner said. (NewsUSA)

Foreign contaminants hit U.S. 'pristine' sites

High in mountain lakes and far north in Alaskan wilderness, researchers from Oregon State University at Corvallis are finding some of the world's most toxic chemicals, possibly from sources as far away as Europe and Asia.

"We've found persistent chemicals -- such as mercury and PCBs -- in lakes in very remote areas," said Michael Kent, director of the Center for Salmon Disease Research at OSU. "And we've found evidence of toxic effects in fish in these lakes."

Kent heads the fish pathology investigation of the Western Airborne Contaminant Assessment Program (WACAP), a collaboration of government and university scientists conducting a six-year study in national parks from California to Alaska.

Far from the crowds of national park visitors, OSU researchers trek to wilderness lakes in the high Sierras, Rockies, and Cascade Mountains, as well as Alaska back country. They carry the bare essentials:

Some 2,000 pounds of scientific equipment, inflatable boats, hand pumps, dry ice, food and shelter for eight people for three days.

In the winter, they sample the snowpack and return with sleds and backpacks full of frozen samples. They are measuring mercury and other contaminants in snow, soil, air, water, fish and vegetation in places once thought to be among the most pristine areas in the

world. "Places that are far removed from human activity, places high in altitude or latitude, were thought to be pristine," said Carl Schreck, a professor in OSU's Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife who heads the fish physiology investigations. "They are not," he said.

"Nothing is pristine anymore, and that makes it hard to determine a baseline for measuring environmental change," he said.

The researchers' sampling methods target different time periods. They sample this year's snowpack to get a snapshot of current airborne pollutants; they examine lake sediments for evidence from as far back as the 1870s.

"We have seen physiological and pathological changes in the fish in these lakes, and we have seen an accumulation of toxic chemicals in the water that could only have come in by air," Kent said.

Although the specific sources of these airborne contaminants are as yet unknown, other studies have shown that air masses can cross the Pacific Ocean from Asia to North America in just a few days.

These air masses can carry coal smoke (a major source of mercury) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) emitted from industrial sites in Russia, China and elsewhere.

When the air masses hit the mountains of western North America, pollutants they carry begin to settle.

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