

Here, There, & Everywhere

SPRING BREAK BONUS - A number of free activities for all valley youth will be held by the Boys & Girls Club of Illinois Valley from Monday, March 26 through Wednesday, March 28 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The program, for youngsters through teen-agers, will be conducted at Evergreen Elementary School. There will be art projects (blown eggs, bunny baskets, ceramics, and pom-pom bunnies and chicks); a game room (pool, air hockey, chess and checkers); and recreation (triple-play challenge, basketball, Cougarball). Lunch will be comprised of a hot dog, chips and a soft drink for \$1.50. Phone 592-4771 or 592-6151 for more information.

EVERGREEN FAM FUN - Family Night at Evergreen Elementary School will be held Friday, March 30 from 6 to 9. The meal described in the item above will be available. Plus, there will be dodgeball games pitting students vs. parents. And there will be a movie and an art project.

MILLER INDUCTION - The public can attend an induction ceremony for Illinois Valley High School wrestling coach Ural "Jay" Miller into the Oregon Chapter of The National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum. The presentation will be at Holiday Inn/Portland South on Saturday, April 28. A no-host social will begin at 5 p.m., the dinner at 6:30. Tickets are \$35, and order sheets are available at the IVHS office, or purchased from Ward Winter at 592-6806. A bus has been chartered, and the first 48 persons to sign up at \$5 each will get seats.

THRIFTILY GENEROUS - Valley residents generously have donated quality items to the thrift store operated by Illinois Valley Senior Center in Downtown Cave Junction. Such donations are appreciated, as they help support the senior center while returning value to the community. As well, the operation keeps volunteers busy working in the store. And the store provides items to many who cannot afford the price of new merchandise, seniors and others alike. The center's motto is, "You donated it. Don't see it? It sold. Thank you."

HELPING BATTERED KIDS - Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA) is starting another round of classes on "Helping Children Exposed to Batterers." Said IVSHA, "Children who experience domestic violence in their families are victims of domestic violence as well. These classes address issues regarding children and DV, and will help decrease long-term harm to our children and help disconnect the cycle of violence. Phone 592-2515 to advise what date and time work for you and to save your place as the class solidifies and fills."

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AID - On Saturday, March 24 the Women's Crisis Support Teams Community will offer a free workshop on "The 40 Developmental Assets" from noon to 2 p.m. at the Takilma Community Bldg. Presented by Kathy Capps, the 40 developmental assets are comprised of positive experiences, relationships, opportunities and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. She will share how to enhance the quality of family life, and the health and well being of your children with this informative workshop co-sponsored by the Social Justice Alliance. Child-care for those 4 and younger will be provided. For contact information phone M.D. Rhodes at 592-3437.

SEARCH/RESCUE NOTE- Josephine County Search And Rescue (SAR) is celebrating its 40th year of service this month. Continued financial support is needed, as the volunteer organization pays its own way. And additional volunteers are sought. Donations of any amount can be sent to P.O. Box 814, Grants Pass OR 97528. SAR reminds the community that, "When you need help, 911 calls us."

'NEWS' EASTER - Easter greetings, and product and service ads with color available at a special price, will appear in the April 4 *Illinois Valley News* issue for the community. (Easter Sunday falls on April 8). The deadline is Thursday, March 29. Phone 592-2541 for more information.

NOTEPAD - CJ Citizens Patrol is looking for volunteers and sponsors. There will be a meeting Wednesday, March 21 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction ... **A Spring Dance** for sixth-graders will be held by the Boys & Girls Club on Friday, March 23 in the LBMS gym from 7 to 10 p.m. There is a fee. And pizza and soft drinks will be sold ... **Spring Break** for students and teachers will run from Monday, March 26 through Friday, March 30 ... **Coming up:** The Illinois Valley Lions Club annual Easter Egg hunt in Jubilee Park. Watch for details ... **Bumper stickers:** *Anger Management Graduate: What the heck you lookin' at!? *My child was inmate of the month at county jail. *If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you are reading it in English, thank a soldier. *I got in a traffic jam on my road to riches.

LAST WORDS - Our entire task in this life consists in healing the eyes of the heart so that they may be able to see God. (St. Augustine)

Enrollment decline threatens school district funds

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A combination of declining enrollment and rising costs is hanging over Three Rivers School District (TRSD) as officials begin preparing the 2007-08 fiscal year budget.

During the TRSD Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March 20, in Grants Pass, a briefing on the district's revenue forecast for the coming year was presented by Dave Marshall, director of Fiscal and Support Services.

The district lost 250 students during the past year, Marshall said, which will cost the district around \$1.48 million in revenue. In addition, the district is facing \$1.5 million in rising insurance and transportation costs because of higher fuel prices.

"We look at a \$3 million challenge before we even get started," Marshall said. The district's enrollment has been declining since 1995, and is now the smallest it's been in the last 20 years, Marshall said.

During the 1997-98 school year, the district had 6,600 students. That number declined to 6,000 during 2000-01 and has dropped to its current level of 5,400.

Marshall said that according to population estimates, the district will lose another 179 students by 2009, and will be down to approximately 5,052 students by 2012.

"It's the trend that's important," Marshall said.

Additional state money per student still won't cover the growing gap between revenues and expenditures, Marshall said. Another growing problem is that many of the district's facilities are growing old and requiring more maintenance.

Marshall warned that with projected revenues of \$43.2 million and \$43.17 in expenses, the 2007-08 budget likely will have no ending balance, contingencies or transfers.

"It's not a pretty picture, and it's not going to get better," Marshall said.

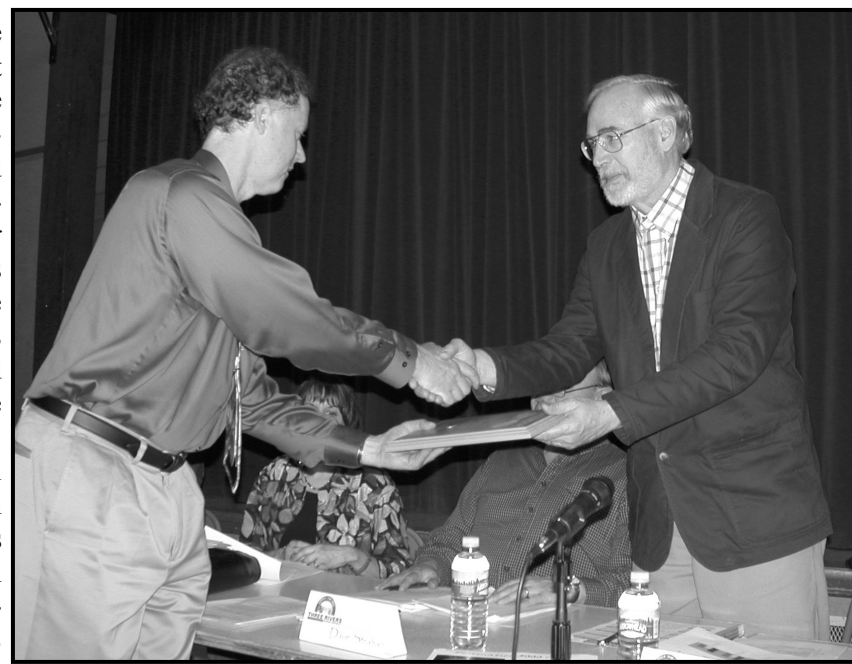
TRSD board member Lisa Meier asked if there were any parts of the budget that would be easier to cut than others. Human Resources Director Debbie Breckner said that she

could make some recommendations, but would have to involve TRSD's principals in the any such decisions.

Marshall said that the district won't know anything for absolute certain until July 15, when the first payments will be received from the state. Any figures until then will be based on estimates from the Oregon Dept. of Education (ODE).

Josephine County Commissioner Dave Toler, who was honored during the meeting for his 10 years of service on the board, said that the district may have to redefine its concept of current service levels.

Toler said that the de-



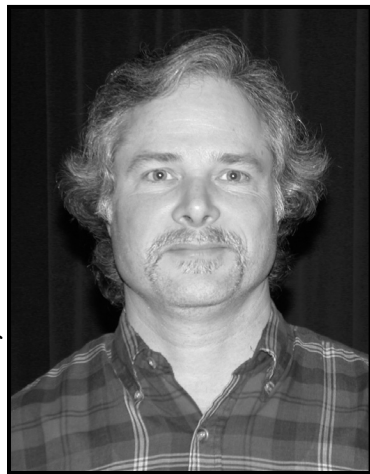
Dave Toler accepts a plaque from Jim Weaver, chairman of the TRSD board. (Photos by Scott Jorgensen/IVN')

clining enrollment could mean an improvement in the district's overall class sizes.

In other matters, the board:

*Swore in new member Robert Litak, a resident of Illinois Valley, as is Toler.

*Voted to approve Kevin Marr as a Budget Committee member, and approves Linda DuBose for another term on the committee. Those appointments bring the budget group to a full 10 members.



New board member Bob Litak

ILLINOIS VALLEY FAMILY COALITION
is **SEEKING VENDORS** for our **COUNTRY FAIR**
to be held Saturday, June 30 in Cave Junction. The event includes arts, crafts, music, as well as a farmer's market for fresh produce and plants. Animal exhibits will also be included. Home-grown or home-made items preferred. Contact the Coalition at 541-592-6139 for more details.

SOUP FOR THE SOULS
A Benefit for the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance

Looking to help your community while reducing your taxes? The Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance is seeking donations for silent auction items for the upcoming "Soup for Souls" fund-raising event. If you have items that you would like to donate please contact Iris Loewen at 592-4147.

ILLINOIS VALLEY SAFE HOUSE ALLIANCE MORE THAN A SAFE PLACE

Club & Organization notes

Siskiyou Regional Education Project

Sunday, March 25, a hike up Hope Mountain will be led by Kerry Whitehead, a long-time resident of the Takilma forest who is familiar with area history.

Outing points will include an old mining site and an old-growth forest. This area is part of the proposed East Fork Illinois BLM project.

Hikers should meet at 10 a.m. at the Siskiyou Project lower parking lot in Takilma.

Spiral Living Center

On Sunday, April 1 a Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop is offered from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students will learn how to grow an abundant variety of fruit trees using just a twig, a knife and some electrical tape.

Instructor Mark Kelz has been growing and grafting fruit trees since 1970 in Takilma. He will provide recommendations on heavy bearing local varieties and where to get them.

The course is open to the public, and the cost is \$25. For more information or to register for classes phone 592-3642 or

email spiral@frontiernet.net.

The Spiral Living Center is a new nonprofit in Illinois Valley. its goal is to help the community achieve self-sufficiency. "We are developing a wide range of programs focused on sustainable living, starting with food production, water collecting and energy," an aide said.

KS Wild

On Sunday, March 24 and on subsequent fourth Saturdays, there will be Wild Rogue River hikes.

Hikes will go into proposed Wilderness along the Lower Rogue River. "We will discuss Wilderness and Wild & Scenic proposals for the area as well as BLM's old-growth logging plans," announced a spokesman.

Carpools leave the Shop 'n Kart parking lot in Ashland (2268 Ashland St.) at 9 a.m., and the Gooseberries Natural Foods parking lot (1533 N.E. F St.) in Grants Pass at 10 a.m. Participants should bring hiking shoes, clothing layers, food and water.

Hikes are moderate and approximately 5 to 7 miles.

Forest Edge Farm

Beautiful Babies Grow up to give beautiful fiber for Beautiful Hats

Come see them at...

The Ranch 592-6078
5489 Takilma Road

SOG Gallery 592-5019
RCC Kerby Belt Building

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Ted Crocker LTC, Licensed Tax Consultant
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