



VOLUNTEERS DIG WORK - Numerous tree seedlings were planted at McCaleb Ranch Boy Scout Camp out Illinois River Road on Saturday, March 17. Forestry Action Committee led the annual riparian effort with help from members of Boy Scout Troop 880, I.V.



High School International Club, I.V. Section of the Boys & Girls Club, Brownie Troop 120, and Girl Scout Troop 123, who earned funds through the I.V. Soil & Water Conservation District. There also were a number of individual volunteers. Planted were Jeffrey and Ponderosa pines, Douglas Fir, Incense Cedar, Oregon Ash, Big Leaf Maple, Mock Orange, and Red Osier Dogwood. After planting, volunteers partook of a potluck meal in Cave Junction. (Photos provided)

TRSD plans computer update project

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

Evergreen Elementary School Principal Dave Valenzuela is proud of his school's computer system.

Its two computer labs serve students quite well, and every effort has been made to upgrade hardware as often as possible. But Valenzuela and other Three Rivers School District (TRSD) officials are realizing that a long-range technology plan is becoming more of a necessity.

"Our ability to stay with the times has been outstanding up until now," Valenzuela said. "But we're falling behind in speed and our capacity to utilize the programs that we're bringing on board."

He said that there are "minor grumbings" among Evergreen teachers regarding the current system's lack of speed, but that staff members understand TRSD's financial limitations.

"It is frustrating to them," Valenzuela said, "but most people understand the financial commitment it takes to

upgrade appropriately."

Earlier this month, TRSD Human Resources Director Debbie Breckner addressed the issue during a board meeting.

"There are some very real problems with the state of technology in the district," Breckner said.

"Part of the problem is that we don't have a plan."

New testing and student information systems, combined with reporting requirements included in the federal No Child Left Behind Act, threaten to put a further strain on the district's 2,400 computers, Breckner said.

Currently, more than 90 percent of TRSD computers are not covered under any warranty, and printers and computer-compatible projectors are in short supply.

As such, the district will be considering a lease agreement with CDW-G, a company that handles technology issues for the state government. Those discussions will begin April 23, during the TRSD Budget Committee's first meeting this year.

Breckner said that the district considered bids by

Office Max, Staples and other companies, but that CDW-G would charge much less for its services.

"Basically, what would happen is we would be leasing the computers for five years," Breckner said. "During that period, if there's a problem with the machines at any time, they get sent back."

Under the proposal, the district would pay \$212,000 to lease a total of 130 computers and pay \$85,000 for a software assurance agreement. Such a move would ultimately save the district money, Breckner said.

"Basically, what that would allow us to do is keep our computers licensed at whatever version we're using at that time without having to purchase the individual licenses," Breckner said. "The way it breaks down is under the current model, we license everything at about \$212 a machine. But under the software assurance, the cost drops to \$45 a machine."

Breckner said that if the TRSD board approves the contract with CDW-G, "it would entail approximately 1,300 computers" and ensure that students do not fall behind in the increasingly fast-moving, technologically driven global economy.

"It really is a better deal," Breckner said.

County watermaster outlines conservation methods

As she finishes the end of her first year as watermaster in Josephine County, Kathy A. Smith looks back on the many water resources issues that have flooded her office.

One of the continuing questions, she said, is "How can we provide water for domestic, agricultural, commercial, and industrial uses while maintaining water in the streams for wildlife and healthy ecosystems."

"One answer is to use water more efficiently. Conserving water by improving the infrastructure used to deliver water is one aspect of this answer," said Smith.

She continued, "While the Oregon Water Resources Dept. (OWRD) does not provide advice on which water delivery system to use, we do recognize that drip systems conserve more water than sprinklers and sprinklers conserve more water than flood irrigation."

"OWRD does offer a conserved water program that provides benefits to water right holders and in-stream values. The law allows a water user who conserves water to use a portion

of the conserved water on additional lands, lease or sell the water, or dedicate the water to in-stream use.

"There is no application form. Instead, a project design that shows how conservation will be achieved is submitted to OWRD. When the conserved water is from a change in irrigation design, applicants are encouraged to work with agencies that specialize in irrigation system design such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Besides technical assistance, the agencies may provide cost-share assistance for irrigation upgrades. The program is not limited to irrigation rights. Rights for other beneficial uses such as industrial use are also eligible."

The watermaster said that after an application is submitted to the OWRD, a public notice is provided in a newspaper of record inviting public comment. OWRD staff reviews the

application and any comments received, then determines to approve or reject the proposed comment.

The determination is forwarded to the applicant and any commenting parties for their review. If no protests are received, OWRD issues a final order approving or denying the project.

"There is no set limit on how much time an applicant has to complete a project," said Smith. "A reasonable time frame with respect to project difficulty and budget is expected. After the applicant reports that the project is completed, the original certificate is canceled and a new certificate is issued, at a lesser rate for use on the original acreage."

Smith also provided the following information: A Request for Finalization is submitted after the applicant has determined how the system will operate and is comfortable with the amount of water needed by using the

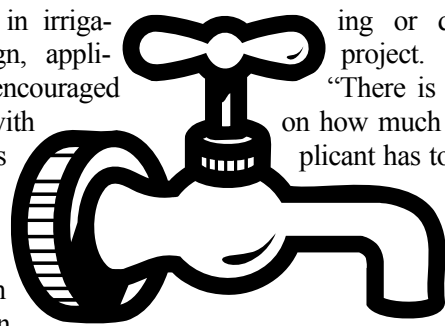
new system to meet the original use. OWRD then finalizes the allocation application.

After mitigating the effects on any other water rights, the Water Resources Commission allocates 25 percent of the conserved water to the state (for an in-stream water right) and 75 percent to the applicant, unless the applicant proposes a higher allocation to the state, or more than 25 percent of the project costs came from federal or state nonreimbursable sources.

The amount of conserved water is the difference between the amount stated on the existing water right or the system capacity, whichever is smaller, and the amount of water needed to satisfy the existing beneficial use stated on the original water right.

There are two opportunities for applicants to halt the allocation of conserved water application. If the project is stopped prior to completion, OWRD is notified and the order authorizing the project is rescinded. If the project is not performing as designed, an applicant may request to reinstate the original amounts granted under the certificate.

"This process of improving the water-use efficiency is one way a water right holder can expand the use of their water right without applying for a new permit or transferring an existing permit," said Smith. "Improving water-use efficiency also contributes to a sustainable water supply for in-stream and out-of-stream uses," she said.



Obituaries

(Continued from page 4)

Jeanette E. Reed-Harris

Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 28 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Hull & Hull Funeral Directors chapel for Selma resident Jeanette E. Reed-Harris, 69, who died at home Saturday, March 24, 2007.

A funeral service will commence at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 29, also at Hull & Hull. Chaplain Carole Howser will officiate. Interment will follow at 3 p.m. at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Mrs. Reed-Harris was born Dec. 2, 1937 in Portland, Ore. She graduated in 1956 from Wilson High School. She moved to Selma from Damascus four years ago.

Mrs. Reed-Harris, a long-haul truck driver for 20 years, retired from Mitchell Brothers Trucking in 1999. Her hobbies were traveling, camping, gardening, sewing and cooking.

Besides her husband, Richard Harris, of Selma, she is survived by two sons, Donald Reed, of Selma, and Duane

Reed, of Gresham; two daughters, Katherine Dragoo and Dawn Weinberger, both of Portland; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by a son, David Reed, in 1999.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.since1928hull.com.

H.D. PATTON JR

CONSTRUCTION

541 • 476-2127 Lic #39671

Outstanding New Subdivision "Too Far South" Cave Junction
(some restrictions apply - building may vary from illustration)



REACH-UP, STAND-UP, FLY-UP

ART'S RED GARTER STEAKHOUSE & SALOON FINE DINING

Steaks - Chicken - Fish - Large Hamburgers

Restaurant separate from lounge

Now Available Every Day!

Prime Rib & Prime Rib Sandwiches

Bring in this ad for a 10% discount

Open 4 to 9 p.m. (winter hours) 7 days

592-2892 or 592-4222

Crocker Financial Services

Ted Crocker LTC, Licensed Tax Consultant
Advisory Representative*
541-592-3667

MENU OF SERVICES

TAX AND ACCOUNTING

Individual and Business Tax Preparation
Refund Anticipation Loans - Electronic Filing
Payroll Services and Reporting
Tax Planning and Consulting

INVESTMENTS*

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)
Mutual Funds
College 529 Plans
Investments
Health Savings Accounts

INSURANCE

Fixed and Variable Annuities*
Life Insurance
Disability Insurance
Long Term Care Insurance
Health Insurance
Medicare Supplement Insurance

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Retirement Planning
Rollovers*
IRAs*
SEPs*
SIMPLEs*
401 Ks*

College Planning
Tax Reduction Strategies
Cash Flow Analysis

*Securities offered through HD Vest Investment ServicesSM, member SIPC
Advisory services offered through H.D. Vest Advisory Services
Non-bank subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company
6333 North State Hwy 161, Fourth Floor, Irving TX 75038 (972)870-6000