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By **WALLY AIKEN**
For IVN

Formation of an 18-member committee to examine ways to deal with changes needed due to declining enrollments topped the agenda during a Three Rivers School District (TRSD) regular board meeting Monday night, Oct. 15.

The meeting was held at Fruitdale Elementary School in Grants Pass. Vice Chairman Leslie Meier was absent.

The committee which includes Illinois Valley residents Tony Paulson (mayor of Cave Junction), Ginger Nordal, Kate Dwyer and Shelly Berry, was selected from names submitted by district school principals. The board voted 4-0 to accept TRSD Superintendent Jerry Fritts' final recommendation on members.

The Right-Sizing Committee, as it is termed, is scheduled to begin meeting next month. Final recommendations are to be submitted sometime during January 2008.

The board also discussed the possibility of a new residential and non-residential development tax, similar to an impact tax. It is made possible by Senate Bill 1036, signed into law by Gov. Kulongoski in May. It allows school districts to assess a tax on any new construction.

A report submitted by TRSD Business Manager David Marshall outlined some of the requirements needed before such a plan could be implemented. These include a specific five-year plan for the funds generated, and the necessity of intergovernmental agreements with the cities of Cave Junction and Grants Pass as well as Josephine

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Illinois Valley's varsity football team continued its winning ways Friday, Oct. 12. The Cougar's Eric McConico, (#4) went for a TD against Hidden Valley. Story on page 8. (Photo by Ward Winter) I.V.'s Homecoming game against Henley will be held Friday, Oct. 19. The Homecoming parade Friday be-

ginning at 1:15 p.m. will go to Evergreen Elementary School via River Street; along Kerby Avenue, Lister Street and Hussey Avenue to Watkins Street; then north on Redwood Hwy. through Downtown Cave Junction, returning to IVHS on E. River Street.

Pot cops oblige CJ man's demand for search warrant

A Cave Junction resident declined to cooperate when a Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) deputy went to his Raymond Street home to check on possible child endangerment.



Luna

He told a deputy checking on possible marijuana smoking in the presence of young children, to "come back with a warrant."

The patrol deputy gave the information to JCSO's Josephine Marijuana Eradication Team (JOMET).

It obtained a warrant and served it the next day (Wednesday, Oct. 10) at 105 Raymond St.

The result is that Christopher R. Luna, 31; and Shanna M. Steiner, 26, each

were arrested on charges of manufacturing, possession and delivery of a controlled substance/marijuana. Additionally, she was charged with nine counts of being a felon in possession of a weapon, and endangering the welfare of a minor.

Besides the marijuana charges, Luna was charged with endangering the welfare of a minor. Luna's children, said JCSO, are 13 and 5.

Luna and Steiner were taken to county jail.

As a result of the search warrant service, JOMET officers seized nine firearms: a 9mm Uzi, seven rifles, and one pistol.

Officers also seized 43 growing marijuana plants, scales, a psilocybin mushroom, a surveillance camera system, and a methamphetamine smoking pipe with residue, and more than 150 grams of processed pot.

Other items were a stolen chain saw, and two ATVs reported stolen in Josephine

County, plus five growing shields with high-intensity bulbs, digital timers, three

"Investigators also found potting soil inside a vacuum cleaner, which



Josephine Marijuana Eradication Team members found weapons and other items in a car. (Photo by I.V. News)

ballasts, and fertilizers.

JOMET said that when officers arrived at the residence, they found that Luna and Steiner "had already removed many of the items" that were seized.

"However," said the team, "investigators found a camera with photos of the marijuana-growing operation at the residence.

"reeked" of 'green bud.'" Officers developed other information, "leading them to another location where Steiner's SUV was found to contain weapons and the other items seized."

The children were taken into protective custody by the Oregon Dept. of Human Services Child Welfare Section, said JOMET.



Coffee Heaven's Tina Marks and Crystal Sullivan (clockwise from top left) served the new Cave Bear Blend at I.V. Visitor Center; Karen Yanase from Yanase Jewelers displayed pink tourmaline pieces at Rising Sons; Alan Laurie showed his graphic art retrospective at Taylor's Country Store; and Jen Ambrose entertained at Bagel Junction. (Additional photos, page 14)



Second Friday Art Walk Oct. 12 in Cave Junction offered eclectic mix. (Photos by Jennifer Newsted, IVN)



Property tax billing in the mail

Some 47,000 Josephine County property tax statements for 2007-2008 were to be mailed to property owners on or about Tuesday, Oct. 16.

If the bills are paid in full by the Nov. 15 due date, there is a 3 percent discount. To receive a discount, payments must be postmarked on or prior to that date.

Taxes also can be paid in three installments due Nov. 15, 2007; and Feb. 15 and May 15, 2008.

Illinois Valley residents can make their tax payments at Home Valley Bank.

The county disburses property tax dollars as follows (from the 2006-07 fiscal year): county general fund 5.9 percent, county jail bond 2.2 percent, education 60.4 percent, cities 25.9 percent, and "other" 5.6 percent.

The total assessed value of taxable property rose from \$5,077,308,770 during 2006 to \$5,383,788,015 as of Jan. 1, 2007, an increase of 6.04 percent, said county assessor Michael Schneyder.

The city of Grants Pass taxable assessed value is up 6.86 percent. Cave Junction's taxable assessed value is up 14.48 percent.

Assessed values in Three Rivers School District grew at a rate of 5.87 percent. Values in Grants Pass School District 7 grew at 6.25 percent.

The market value (as defined by Measure 5) of taxable property increased. The total market value for 2006 was \$9,900,996,388. For 2007 it went to \$10,626,563,720 a 7.33 percent increase.

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Attendance affected by threat at I.V.

Only 100 students of 430 attended Illinois Valley High School on Thursday, Oct. 11, apparently because of graffiti in a girls restroom reading, "Bomb on October 11 - no joke."

Principal JoAnn Bethany said that the writing on a stall wall was found on Friday, Oct. 5.

"Previous to this," Bethany said in part in a Monday, Oct. 8 letter to students and parents, "we had been having some issues of vandalism in the restrooms where students are using permanent markers to write inappropriate things."

She noted that as Friday, Oct. 12 was a holiday for students, "a student may well have been thinking about how to extend that to a four-day weekend."

Bethany noted in her Oct. 8 letter, "I sincerely do not believe that there will be a bomb at school on Thursday (Oct. 11). However, we will be proactive about this threat." Three Rivers School District staff and Josephine County Sheriff's Office personnel were present to monitor the day.

Parents were given the option of keeping their children at home on the 11th. Many made the choice for absence.