

Student Achievers

Alyssa Burdick, a senior student at Illinois Valley High School, is among three high school students statewide honored by the Stand for Children Leadership Center's new "Beat the Odds" scholarship program.



Alyssa Burdick

It is designed to raise awareness about the importance of improving the odds for Oregon's children, as currently one drops out of school roughly every hour in Oregon. Because the scholarships are underwritten by patrons, funds raised through the scholarship awards luncheon that was held will support Stand for Children's advocacy work to improve the odds for Oregon's children.

The leadership center had this to say about the IVHS senior:

"Alyssa Burdick exudes a quiet strength that belies the tremendous hurdles she has had to overcome to get where she is today -- a high school senior with a nearly 4.0 grade-point average on her way to being the first in her family to graduate high school.

"Life as Alyssa knew it changed dramatically one

morning when at age 13 her father committed suicide after a long struggle with addiction."

Said Burdick, "My father was a great dad. He was always there for me, encouraging me and mentoring me to have a successful life.

"No matter how hard life gets or how bad it is, life is always worth fighting for."

The leadership center noted, "The toughest, but perhaps most valuable lesson of this horrific experience has taught Alyssa never to give up.

"Alyssa loves the Spanish language. Her whole demeanor becomes animated when the subject of speaking Spanish comes up. She converses regularly with a Mexican immigrant classmate in Spanish and tutors fellow students.

"She hopes one day to use her love of language as an interpreter or a teacher. Last summer, she and several members of her high school's International Club went to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, the culmination of two years of nonstop fund-raising.

"Since sixth grade, Alyssa has participated in College Dreams, a graduation incentive program for bright students with life challenges run by the Grants Pass YMCA. Her College Dreams mentor Monet Talty says, 'Alyssa maintains a very bright and optimistic attitude; and although her heart may have been broken, it has not hardened'."

The two other senior students recognized in the program are Quincy Harris, of McKay High School, Salem;

and Nawwal Moustafa, of Beaverton High School.

Kathryn Baker, a senior student at Illinois Valley High School, is September Student of the Month honored by Kerby Belt Lodge 18 AF&AM.



Kathryn Baker

Baker is the daughter of Graham and Kathleen Baker, of Cave Junction. She has maintained a 4.09 grade-point average.

She is a member of the IVHS Chapter of National Honor Society, Mathletes, Cougar Pals, Leadership Class and the girls golf team.

The honored student has received the following citations: Principal's Student of the Month, Cougar Pride Award, Student of Merit for Business, Scholar Athlete Award, Coaches Award, Perfect Attendance Award, and Most Inspirational Golf Player.

After graduation, Baker plans to attend Linfield College at McMinnville for her first four years, and then attend medical school to earn her degree as a pediatric oncologist.

Osteopathic physician joins clinic

In October Siskiyou Community Health Center's (SCHC) clinic in Cave Junction welcomed Dr. Shae Johnson, an osteopathic physician, to its growing staff of providers.

Johnson is Board Certified in Family Medicine.

He received his medical training at the A.T. Still University of Health Sciences in Kirksville, Mo. While at school in Kirksville, he served as a medical Spanish coordinator/instructor for Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

He completed his residency at Utah Valley Family Medicine Residency at Provo, where he was the assistant chief resident.

Johnson has experience as an emergency room physician, and was on the Utah County Sexual Assault Forensic Team as an examiner.

With his wife, Beth, and their son, Aiden, Johnson moved to this area to fulfill his commitment with the National Health Service Corps.

"We feel so blessed to be able to serve in such an incredible area," said Johnson. "I am an outdoorsman and have an avid interest in fly fishing. I love cycling and backpacking. When we came here last year to see the area we were so impressed with its beauty."

Fluent in Spanish, Johnson brings not only his interest in working in an under-

served area, but his bilingual abilities add to his remarkable qualifications, said SCHC.

SCHC has served Josephine County since 1973. It is the only not-for-profit federal safety net medical and dental clinic in Josephine County. Because of that status, SCHC is able to treat patients regardless of their ability to pay.

A sliding fee scale is provided for people who have no insurance. SCHC's medi-

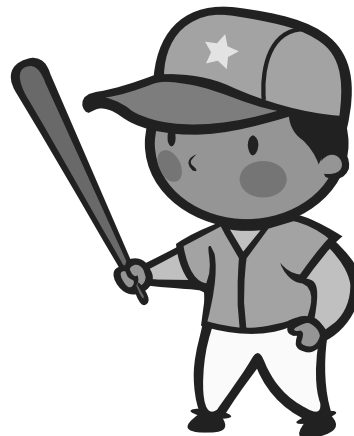
cal clinics in Grants Pass and Cave Junction, and the dental clinic in Grants Pass, accept most private insurances as well as Oregon Health Plan. The medical clinics also accept Medicare. All the clinics are accepting new patients.

For more information about SCHC, phone Judi Hill at 955-6053, Ext. 1158; or phone for an appointment in Grants Pass 471-3455 and in Cave Junction 592-4111.

Illinois Valley Little League thanks all the volunteers, associations, and organizations, along with our generous sponsors, for their support throughout 2007.

You know who you are; we couldn't do it without you. We are looking forward to your continuing support. We'll see you next year.

**Thank you,
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Beware of candle fires during holidays

Law enforcement officers and firefighters in Josephine County and elsewhere are bracing for a surge in house fires this winter as people use candles for light during power outages.

Severe winter weather tears down power lines and plunges millions of people into darkness. When people use candles for light they're igniting a leading cause of home fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

NFPA says that people were using candles for light in more than 30 percent of all fatal candle fires -- and 75 percent of all catastrophic fires where five or more people died.

"The risk of a fatal can-

dle fire appears higher when candles are used for light," said NFPA officials.

To help prevent fires, the American Red Cross has developed a home emergency kit that includes Snap-Lights for safe light. Snap-Lights turn on with a bend, snap and shake, safely mixing two chemicals to create instant light. There is no spark, flame, heat, battery or bulb.

The rate of candle fires doubles during December and January, with 40 percent of all candle fires happening in winter. Candle fires killed 350 people and injured nearly 3,000 people during 2004 and 2005. The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security says that

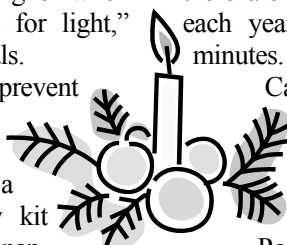
there are 23,600 candle fires each year -- one every 34 minutes.

Candle fires typically break out when people forget about them or simply fall asleep.

People must use "common sense and caution," noted Homeland Security.

Candles can cause serious safety hazards. Candle fires tripled in the United States between 1990 and 2002, and the results can be tragic. The widespread popularity of candles "means candle fires, too many," according to *Consumer Reports*.

For more information about SnapLights and a free safe light tip sheet, visit www.SnapLight.com.



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