

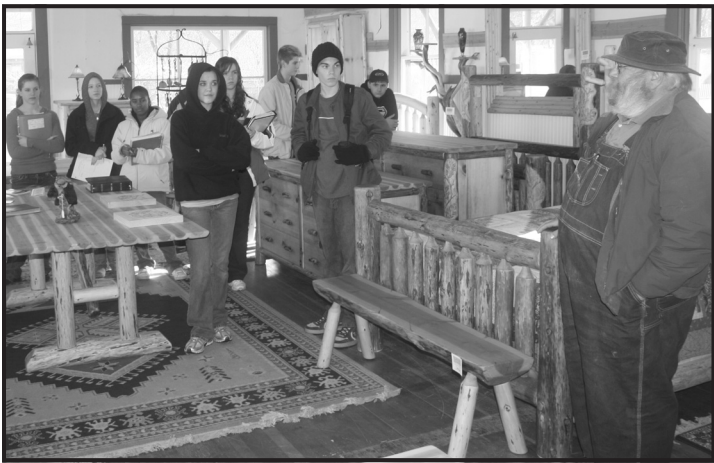
IVHS class eyes past; envisions future

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could be turned into a rustic get-away.

The students suggested building an old-fashioned hotel there and providing other recreational activities. They could include hiking, classes on mining, and equestrian rides to Bolan Lake.

Two other groups also proposed teaching about mining at Illinois River near the Star Gulch area and in Rough and Ready Canyon. These pairs also focused on hiking trails. Additionally, the Rough and Ready Canyon team came up with the idea of teaching rock-climbing.

Other ideas include rebuilding the former, historic Kerby Jail to be the “Kerbyville Jail Bed-n-Breakfast,” rebuilding Waldo as an historical town to promote tourism and show a “day in the life as a miner.” They also suggest turning a clear-cut area of Selma into an ATV track, and providing helicopter and hot air balloon rides, plus teaching skydiving



Students visited Kauffman Wood Products where Delbert Kauffman (right) spoke. (Photo by Roger Brandt)

at Illinois Valley Airport.

Overall, Valenzuela was pleased with the presentations. The community members made it a priority to interact with the students. They asked questions and provided suggestions to help students follow up and expand their ideas.

Next semester Valenzuela plans to again teach Around the World, but with a few changes. Concerning her plans, Valenzuela stated, “We’re going to spend a lot more time locally, and we’re

going to spend a lot more time developing plans for the future and working with experts and community members.”

Although Valenzuela admits that many of the students never will follow-up on their ideas, she affirmed, “At least, at the very minimum, I just wanted little seeds to be planted, that eventually maybe some growth would occur.

“Maybe they won’t continue their vision, but at least they’ll appreciate where they live a little bit more.”

Wild River brews party

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with which the schools needed help.

Their level of commitment only increased as Jerry was elected and held a directorship on the Three Rivers School District Board (formerly Josephine County School District) for 12 years; 1977 through ‘89. During his tenure the Millers raised a family, a business and a reputation in the valley through their commitment to youth.

Besides the contribution, donations, and support of time-resources, the Millers always have been a solid source of employment of youth in the area. They have continued to support the schools and programs even after their own children

graduated.

The Millers continue to donate to nearly every youth fund-raiser that seeks support.

One of Jerry and Bertha’s special interest is Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cave Junction. Their influence and concern for their church helped spearhead completion of a new home for the church.

They continue to actively participate at Good Shepherd. Their devotion and dedication to their church family has been an inspiration to many.

Jerry and Bertha remain actively involved in various community organizations. Many note that their influence and commitment to excellence benefits all of S.W. Oregon.

Are you in I.V. Fire District?

Illinois Valley residents who want to annex to I.V. Fire District (IVFD) should do so before Josephine County adopts fire protection boundaries.

IVFD Fire Marshal Jerry Schaffer said that once boundaries are adopted, residents will be unable to annex to IVFD.

“There are people on the north and on either side of our district who should be in our fire protection

area,” said Schaffer. “They should seek annexation with IVFD post-haste.”

Otherwise, he indicated, designated fire agencies would have to come through IVFD to reach the scenes of emergencies in Illinois Valley. This could cause safety and other problems, he said.

Chief Harry Rich noted that property owners outside IVFD boundaries will be billed for emergency responses.

Manager proposed

(Continued from page 1)

managers with day-to-day mechanics of county operation rather than the actual governing of the county. He cited an example where the commissioners spent 20 minutes dealing with the logistics of allowing a student group to use the courthouse on a Saturday for a moot court lesson.

He also pointed to the current grant withdrawal situation in the city of Cave Junction as an example of nonprofessional management being overseen by elected officials.

Toler made it clear during his discussion that he could in no way speak for his two fellow commissioners in this matter. He stressed that he is simply following up on his campaign statements.

He said that his first year in office has convinced him that there are inadequacies that need to be addressed.

Ellis said that he opposes Toler’s idea, apparently for economic reasons.

“I have a mortgage and bills,” he said during a telephone interview. “I have voluntarily taken a 10 percent cut in pay as I promised,” the commissioner said, but indicated that a 50 percent pay cut would be unacceptable.

Ellis said that he supports the idea of a chief accounting

Youth activity center Glass Rail goal

By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN

Rural Cave Junction residents Wayne & Shirley Rusk announced during a meeting on their property Saturday, Jan. 26, that their fledgling organization, The Glass Rail Outfit, has achieved non-profit status .

The status allows the group to begin fund-raising, and to begin development of what they hope will become a major center for youth activity in Illinois Valley. The 50-acre site is across from Great Cats World Park. It extends from Hwy. 199 to the west fork of Illinois River, and is in the process of being deeded to the nonprofit.

The ultimate goal of the organization is to develop a facility for handicapped persons, at-risk youth and their families for life-affirming activities. Activities will center on, but not be limited to, equine therapy. To this end the Rusks have secured the services of Connie Hicks, a Florida immigrant who man-

aged a similar operation there for five years.

Immediate goals are to set up the therapeutic and handicapped riding program, and to develop a rustic campground for youth. Phase II would include construction of stables, a hay barn and an outside exercise arena.

The final phase would be construction of an enclosed climate-controlled arena and community center that would be available for use by other groups such as 4-H and Illinois Valley equestrian team. Shirley Rusk added that she hopes the facility also could be used as a music performance site or for any other activity needing a large facility.

Hicks, during her presentation, told of some of the successes she experienced during her work in Florida.

She described one youth, who had to be forced into the program and who eventually became a senior assistant.

“When he came to us, we were afraid we would lose him to drugs,” said Hicks. “He had an extremely confrontational attitude.” She said that his experience working with handicapped youth literally turned his life around.

Members of the Sourdough Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, an affiliate of Back Country Horsemen of America, have indicated an interest in helping develop a trailhead on the property.

Persons wanting more information should phone the Rusks, 592-4658; Connie Hicks, 592-4809; or e-mail glassrailoutfit@yahoo.com.

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In Service to the USA

Dalton Reagan

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dalton Reagan has returned to the United States after his first tour of duty in Ramadi, Iraq.

An infantryman, his job while in Iraq was to help train and support the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army to be able to provide security for their own town. He earned three citations during his time overseas: the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and a Certificate of Commendation (awarded to his unit.)

He also has earned the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Reagan is a 2006 graduate of Illinois Valley High School. He is the son of Aubrey and Danita Roche, of Cave Junction; and Mike Reagan, of Mertzon, Texas.

Reagan returned on an unexpected date in November and surprised his family by showing up at a family reunion during the Thanksgiving holiday. He has been busy visiting friends and family in Oregon and Texas during his leave. He soon will return to duty at the USMC Air Ground Combat Center at

Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Jessica C. Dieter

U.S. Navy Seaman Recruit Jessica C. Dieter, daughter of Catherine M. Ragsdale, of Las Vegas, Nev., and John R. Ragsdale of O’Brien, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

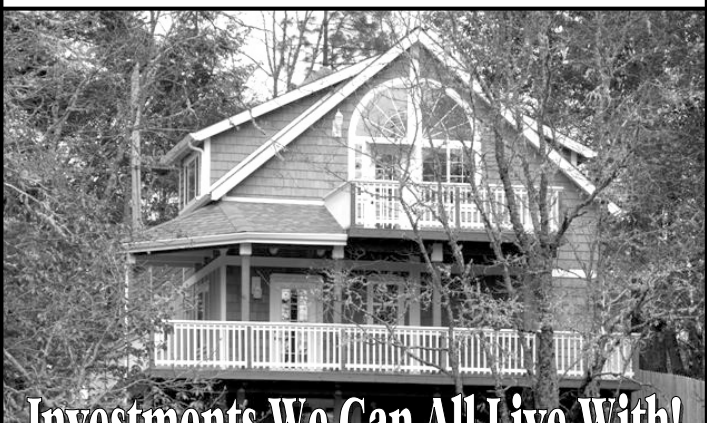
Dieter is a 2006 graduate of Illinois Valley High School.

During the eight-week

basic training program, Dieter completed a variety of courses. They included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis also was placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is “Battle Stations.” This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet, said the Navy.

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