

Student Achievers

Michelle LaPierre

Michelle LaPierre, 17, a senior student at Illinois Valley High School, is Josephine County Board of Commissioners' January Student of the Month.



She is the daughter of Walter & Donna LaPierre, of Cave Junction. She has maintained a 3.91 grade-point average.

LaPierre is a member of FFA, IVHS Chapter of National Honor Society, and the cross country, basketball, track and mountain bike teams. She is involved in many activities in Illinois Valley including Search and Rescue, SDA Bible Camp counseling, her church theater production and choir, 4-H, and SDA Big Sisters and Cooking Club.

The honored student has received many awards in sports: Most Valuable Runner, Most Valuable Mountain Bike Rider, Skyline Conference First Team in Cross Country and Track, Scholar Athlete Award, and Team Captain. In mountain biking LaPierre was the state champion in her division in 2006 and 2007.

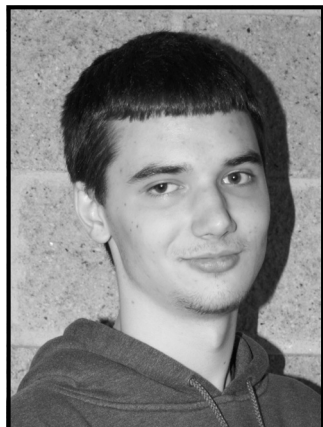
She enjoys running, volunteering, politics, cycling, horseback riding and photography.

Her goal is to become a

pediatric oncologist. She will major in biomedical engineering with a minor in Latin for her undergraduate work. She hopes to attend Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore for her training.

Alex Miller

Kerby Belt Masonic Lodge AF&AM has chosen Alex Miller, a senior student at Illinois Valley High School, as February Student of the Month.



Miller is the son of Selma residents Robert & Diane Miller. He has maintained a 4.0 grade-point average.

He has been a member of the IVHS Chapter of National Honor Society for the past four years, and currently holds the office of sergeant-at-arms. He is a regular blood donor for the American Red Cross, donating three times last year.

Miller volunteers his time to help maintain nearby roads. He has earned his Certificate of Initial Mastery; and received the President's Student of the Year Award and the Cougar Pride Award.

He is hoping to attend Southern Oregon University at Ashland after graduation. He plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in music business. In the future, using his degree, he wants to work for

a major record label, where he hopes to become a music producer.

Jesseja Mucha

Illinois Valley High School graduate (2006) Jesseja Mucha was named to the fall 2007 semester dean's list at Duke University in North Carolina.

He achieved that honor by ranking in the top third of his classes at Pratt School of Engineering at Duke. Mucha is a civil engineer major.

He is the son of Mike Mucha, of Selma; and Laurie Prouty, of Port Orford.

Lindy A. Davis

Lindy A. Davis, of Cave Junction, is among 156 at-risk youth from throughout the Northwest participating in the rigorous Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program (OYCP).

Participants can earn a high school diploma, a GED or enough credits to return to high school by the time they finish in the spring.

While in the program, cadets continue their education and develop life plans to outline clear and organized steps for continuing along the path of success after graduation. Cadets work through a two-phase program, beginning with an intensive, five-month residential program. During which they cultivate life-coping skills, perform community service work and attend academic classes.

The program, cost-free to cadets and their families, is followed by one year of mentoring. During this time, the cadets receive encouragement and support in implementing their life plans as they re-enter their home situations.



'Electrifying Science' was the title of a presentation by Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI) to the Lorna Byrne Middle School student body Tuesday, Feb. 5. OMSI's

Kendall Adams shows how static electricity can cause metal items to move. The one-hour program showed many aspects of electricity in daily living. (Photo by Illinois Valley News)

Susan Steig in training to aid clients at Preg Center

Susan Steig, with Pregnancy Center of Illinois Valley since September, is completing her training to be a client advocate.



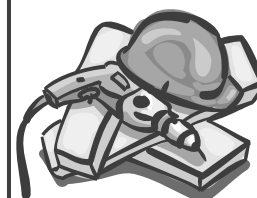
She particularly appreciates the opportunity to "be there" for men and women who may be facing an unplanned pregnancy or the challenges of parenting. She enjoys talking with clients, interacting and building new friendships with the other volunteers.

She learned about the Pregnancy Center through one of the other volunteers.

"I was new to the area and newly retired," she said. "I wanted to do something positive with my life and time." The other woman said that volunteers were needed at the center, and Steig "felt the Holy Spirit tugging at my heart to do it."

Regarding what needs are that she feels the Pregnancy Center could be helping with, she said, "Education -- especially in the area of abstinence." Being pressured into a premature physical relationship creates many self-esteem issues and power struggles within relationships.

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Medical attention was refused by the drivers of two vehicles that collided at approximately 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5 at Redwood Hwy. (199) and Ken Rose Lane. Answering the call for help were Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD), American Medical Response and Jo-

sephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO). Drivers were identified as Ronald Varney, 57, of Cave Junction; and Tammy Allen, 48, of Selma. Both vehicles had heavy front-end damage, said JCSO. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)

Mentally ill to be moved from jails to treatment

Programs have begun in all 36 Oregon counties to move persons with severe mental illness, who don't pose a public safety risk, out of jail and into community-based treatment programs to continue their recovery.

The Oregon Dept. of Human Services Addictions and Mental Health Division is distributing \$4 million authorized by the 2007 Legisla-

ture for jail diversion programs. These are aimed at individuals charged with low-level crimes whose treatment needs are best met in a mental-health setting rather than a county jail with fewer treatment resources.

Recipients include:

*Josephine (\$68,446) -- A part-time peer support specialist will provide outreach to 80 mentally ill "consumers" in jail, and a

part-time case manager will work with clients released from jail.

*Jackson (\$190,484) -- Staff will increase intensive case management and conduct community outreach to ensure that persons with mental illness have access to resources, understand how to avoid incarceration, and develop skills needed for successful, independent living.

*Curry (\$16,133) -- A part-time case manager will work in jail diversion and crisis triage.

*Douglas (\$95,437) -- A mental health/corrections treatment team will meet weekly with a probation officer and supervisor to assign cases, discuss progress of ongoing cases and follow through with recommendations.

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