



Two Lorna Byrne Middle School students competed successfully in the Three Rivers School District Spelling Bee Wednesday, April 14. Brelyn Dhenin (left) earned third place, and Liam Dwyer earned first place. Dwyer's top placing marks his fifth year for that distinction. (Illinois Valley News photo)

## Cougar softball coach aids team challenges

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

It's been a rough season thus far for the Illinois Valley High School varsity softball squad, but new team coach Ray Yarbrough is determined to turn around that situation.

The Cougar squad has yet to win, and a lack of participation forced the combination of the junior varsity and varsity teams.

"That was really hard on them, but I'm proud of them for stepping in and doing it," Yarbrough said.

Yarbrough, who typically coaches football, assumed coaching duties for the softball team in early April. He is being aided by friends who also have previous coaching experience.

"This is really new to me," Yarbrough said. "I have to thank the parents and the kids on the team for working with me as I'm learning and getting better."

Since Yarbrough started, the squad suffered losses at South Umpqua on Saturday, April 3 and dropped four at McKinleyville High School in Northern California Saturday, April 10.

The team hosted North Valley Tuesday, April 13 and lost. It then headed to North Medford High School on

Thursday, April 15 and lost 28-3. The following day, the team hosted Phoenix High School and lost a double-header.

"We looked a lot better on the field," Yarbrough observed.

He added that his main mission as coach is improving the team's consistency.

"The story so far for us is that we play great for the first few innings. For whatever reason, we've dropped off on the later innings," he said. "The focus here is playing seven great innings."

It's easier said than done, but that's what our focus is."

Despite the challenges, Yarbrough said that he is determined to turn around the team of eager girls.

"It's certainly been a tough year on everyone involved," he stated. "But with as much turmoil as there's been, the girls have been awesome. The ones that are still there are a great group of kids."

"In some ways, it's really gotten the team together."

The team is scheduled to face Hidden Valley Tuesday, April 27 on the Mustang field in Murphy.

## Excellence par for I.V. golf duo

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

The Illinois Valley High School boys varsity golf team is looking to improve its game as the spring sports season rolls on.

On Thursday, April 8, the squad went to Centennial Golf Course in Medford for a tournament and placed fifth among five teams.

A Monday, April 12 tournament at Reames Golf Course in Klamath Falls went better for the Cougars, who earned fourth place. Two IVHS golfers earned personal tournament records.

\*Sophomore Travis Robbins shot 87 on the 72-par course.

\*Junior Roger Hults carded 79.

Unpredictable spring weather has complicated the squad's practices, said coach Matt Knight.

"We never know what kind of shape the I.V. Golf Course is going to be in to be able to practice on," he said. "We're also getting used to the greens at other courses. The greens out here on the I.V. course are pretty long, so you have to hit pretty hard to get it in the hole."

"The other courses are pretty mowed down, and that takes some getting used to."

Up next for the team is a Tuesday, April 27 tournament at Stone Ridge Golf Course in Eagle Point.



The soccer locker was full on Saturday, April 17 as I.V. Youth Soccer Club teams took to the field at Evergreen Elementary School. More than 155 youth are playing this year. The events the 17th were the first home games of the spring season; home games also will be played Saturday, April 24: Kindergarteners 8 a.m., Pee Wee 9:15, 3rd-5th graders 10:30; middle school boys 2 p.m., middle school girls 5. Coach Annette Skidmore notes that the boys team has 18 members; the girls team 17. (Photo by Illinois Valley News)

## IVHS drops double-header to Pirates

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

A double-header at Phoenix High School on Saturday, April 17 resulted in a pair of losses for the Illinois Valley High School varsity baseball team.

I.V. lost the first game 13-3. Senior Ben Kendall got a hit. Senior Brandon Foraker and junior Andrew McLaughlin went 2-2.

"We didn't play real good defense," said Cougar coach Bob Johnson. "If we

don't play defense, we get into trouble."

In the second game, I.V. scored 2 runs at the top of the first inning. But the Pirates rallied in the bottom of the first, scoring 8.

"It was all downhill from there," Johnson said. "If we played defense, there's a chance we would have stayed in the game until the end. But we didn't, and we got thumped."

The final score of the second game was 25-3.

Kendall and Foraker each got 1 hit, and McLaughlin got 2. Johnson credits the Pirates' pitchers for their winning efforts.

"They both threw pretty hard. They both had pretty good control," Johnson said. "For the most part, they were throwing strikes and getting ahead of our hitters. That's the key to success for pitching."

The Cougars will host Hidden Valley on Tuesday, April 27.

## Business groups seek stories regarding tax effects

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

Ron Fields launched his Fields Home Improvement store in Murphy in 1977, completely from scratch.

"I literally started my business with a \$100 bill," Fields said. "It was my \$100 bill. I didn't borrow it."

Fields' business is registered with the state as a "C" corporation. As such, he said he has been adversely affected by the passage earlier this year of measures 66 and 67, which raised taxes on some businesses and individuals.

During the campaign on the measures, Fields was quite vocal in stating his opposition. In fact, he had signs posted in the store's entrance stating as much.

But since the measures passed, Fields has had to lay off two employees to pay for the retroactive tax increase. This was despite the fact that last winter was the worst he's had in his more than 30 years of being in business.

"We still had to pay a sizeable amount due to our gross sales," Fields said. "It really makes you look at your business, figure out where to cut and where to save."

Fields' story is exactly the kind that J.L. Wilson is looking to share. He is the vice president of Salem-based Associated Oregon Industries (AOI), which helped lead the campaign to defeat the tax measures.

AOI is among many similar groups that comprise the Alliance of Oregon's Business Associations. Its Website, oregontaxresponse.com, is soliciting tales from business owners about how the tax measures have hampered their operations.

"The issue is not that the stories are out there, it's trying to get them into our collection point and cast the net out wide enough that people know about it. That's our challenge," Wilson said.

"But we want to do it in a way that does not deter people from coming into the state and investing."

Fields noted that his company currently has 25

employees, down from 32 in 2007. Sales were off 30 percent last year, he said, and the company lost money.

Despite that, Fields said that he still had to pay "substantial" retroactive taxes. He said that the company always has been debt-free, but would really be hurting if he had to borrow money to keep it running.

"It's an insult to businesses for the hard work that we put in," Fields said. "The more we do, the more we get hammered."

Wilson said that the tax increases are prompting many "C" corporations to examining reorganizing into "S" corporations.

"There are law firms advising their clients not to be 'C' corps in Oregon," he said. "That's the biggest

thing that's happening."

Advertisements also are being run in the Portland media market urging companies to take advantage of Washington state, Wilson said, as that state has no capital gains tax. Oregon's rate is 11 percent, among the highest in the nation.

"There is a lot of Oregon versus Washington comparisons going on in this part of the state," Wilson said.

He continued that a "common theme" these days is that business owners are making decisions about potentially selling their assets.

"We've gotten a steady drumbeat of stories of people relocating, and more importantly, we have businesses wanting to sell and relocating to other states, which is exactly what we said the out-

come would be," he said.

"People are choosing to grow their businesses elsewhere. They will keep a presence in Oregon, but the growth that was going to occur here will occur somewhere else."

Fields said that aside from the two layoffs, he's tried to find other ways of cutting costs. Having fewer employees means that the company's remaining workers have much more to do, he added.

An expansion project at the store could result in some additional hiring, Fields said, but all that "depends on how the economy's going."

Although it may be premature to say that there is any kind of economic recovery occurring, Fields said that he remains cautiously optimistic. "I have a better feeling about this year," he said.

### Gold Creek Construction LLC

- Remodeling
- Concrete
- New Construction
- Decks
- Outbuildings
- FREE Estimates

For all your home repair/maintenance needs call Mike at 541-531-6220  
Licensed, bonded, & insured. CCB 174891



### Shared Wells #5

with Bob Quinn

In general, a shared well supplies water to two or three residences. Any more than three would be considered a community water system.

Sharing a well or water system with a neighbor can be a cooperative relationship, but has been found to often cause ill feeling between the two parties. Although water is a necessity of life, we are basically greedy when it comes to when and how much we wish to use. Some problems we've seen come from splitting the power and repair bills, trying to take a shower while your neighbor is watering, or the other person has a large garden and 15 kids, or is in tight competition with Old McDonald's Farm. I'm sure you get the point.

If you become interested in acquiring a property that has a

shared well, we advise you and the other party, or parties, to reach a verbal understanding of the shared well and back it up with a written agreement.

Bob Quinn is a member of the Oregon Ground Water Association and owner of Quinn's Well Drilling and Pump Service at 6811 Williams Hwy., Grants Pass. As part of a tradition of information and service that began more than 50 years ago, these columns are provided by the firm to help take the mystery out of well drilling, and ground water. If you have a question about your well or one you are planning, please call Bob or his helpful staff for advice, estimates, or helpful information at no obligation or cost.

(541) 862-9355

Oregon State University Extension Service  
Josephine County Master Gardeners™

## 2010 Annual Spring Garden Fair

At the Josephine County Fairgrounds

# Gardening Extravaganza!

2 Big Days – 2 Big Buildings

Saturday, April 24th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, April 25th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Highlights Include**

- Master Gardener Plant Sale & Plant Clinic
- Over 75 Gardening Related Booths
- Arts and Crafts
- Raffles hourly (need not be present to win)
- 4H Compost sale
- Kids Activities
- Educational Displays
- Trees, Shrubs & Perennial Sales

No animals please

## Free Admission! Free Parking!