

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, March 9, 2011, 2 Sections, 12 Pages, Volume 73 No. 52 Published Weekly Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

illinois-valley-news.com

Inside:

**Special Feature
BOB'S CORNER**
Page A-3

**Bird Watching
with Harry**
Page A-6

**Evergreen goes
Multicultural**
Page A-8

**Youth Nominees
for Art Contest**
Page A-7

**Alpaca Fiber
Processing**
Page A-7

**"Brotherhood"
State game**
Page B-1



**IVHS
Equestrians**
Page B-1

Obituaries A-6
Sudoku A-7
Crossword A-4
Classified B-2
Blotter A-5

Woodland charter dominates debate at school board

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley teaching staff joined others at the monthly Three Rivers School District board meeting Monday, March 7.

Along with the usual monthly updates from schools, the main point of discussion involved revisions to the Woodland Charter School proposal based on Waldorf teaching methods.

Woodland Charter project coordinator Stacey Denton said charter schools would attract students to the district who otherwise would go to private schools outside the

area.

Denton and several other charter school advocates strongly expressed how the current public school system doesn't work for many students and parents. They also stressed that a different option should be available so parents and students could have a choice.

But school board members said the charter school proposal, with an estimated start-up cost slightly over \$400,000, would not be possible in the current economic climate.

"The biggest concern is what impact the charter school might have on all of the district," said Superintendent Dan

Huber-Kantola. "The impact on Illinois Valley and everywhere else comes out of the budget for other schools."

Huber-Kantola said passing the Woodland charter proposal could result in three additional cut days or eliminating five teaching positions.

Denton and others said they believed the initial cost would be made up by the increase of students in the district who might otherwise attend private schools or be home-schooled. She said the Waldorf teaching methods place less emphasis on test scores and spend more time on music, the arts and other areas they believe are a crucial part of education.

Huber-Kantola said more people are interested in charter schools, and that in the future more charter schools could be possible.

"I think everything's a little bit on hold right now," Huber-Kantola said. "Every [sign] is that charter schools will continue to be a priority for the federal government."

Other agenda items included a discussion of the recent wave of students leaving the school district at North Valley High School and others near Grants Pass.

"Attendance has actually been pretty good, and just about every school [in the district] is above the 92-percent average," Huber-Kantola said.

"I know Illinois Valley area schools work very hard to improve attendance."

Huber-Kantola said the district had confirmed a "transient population" of students were leaving some schools, but the cause is not yet known.

"We're seeing a drop in numbers...but most are kids moving out of the area," Huber-Kantola said. "We're guessing because of a lack of jobs or moving back with family. We know it's happening, we just don't know why yet."

School board meetings are generally held the third Monday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Krysten Siver plays the part of "Josephine" in the IVHS rendition of the musical H.M.S. Pinafore Tuesday, Mar. 1 at IVHS.

IVHS Musical theater hosts winter performance

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley High School musical theater students have been hard at work the last several weeks rehearsing and perfecting the British musical *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Originally scheduled for Thursday evening, Feb. 26, the performance was pushed back to March 1 due to cut days and snow. Students performed in front of the entire student body on Tuesday in the cafeteria, culminating a trimester of work.

"I thought it went very well, especially considering cut days and snow delays," said music director Sean McKee. "We had some very strong leads and chorus members. I thought the student body was very respectful and attentive."

It might not have been easy for the mostly student audience, considering the lack of microphones for the performers and the sometimes obscure British humor. But the hope is to combine entertainment with education, perhaps getting the students a little outside their comfort zone in order to learn.

"When selecting [a play] I try to find one that's somewhat well-known, but I try to represent classic literature," McKee said. "I'm also trying to educate the students first."

According to McKee, the actors spent extra time learning their roles and getting into their characters, having to put extra into the acting in order to engage the audience. Some of

the language contained words that aren't so commonly used today, so the students had to work harder to get the punchlines across.

"The biggest obstacle [for the performers] might be putting themselves back in the 1800s in England," McKee said. "And just being able to perform in front of the school like that. They felt good about it once they were done."

McKee said the theater class does not require an audition to participate, but that students do try out for major roles once a play has been selected about a week into the course.

The course syllabus also includes work on musical theater history, business of performing arts, and technical aspects such as lighting, sound and set design.

The class is held five days a week (weather and schedule permitting) for 70 minutes at a time, with occasional after-school rehearsals.

"We try to be as efficient as we can with our time," McKee said.

Getting ready for a theater performance is more than just memorizing lines and rehearsing on-stage. It also involves set design, gathering props and costumes, and sometimes fundraising.

"I want to thank the community who helped out with the sets, costumes and fundraising," McKee said. "It allowed me to do some more creative things and not have to worry as much about [logistics]."

Burglary at Back Street Salon

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Cave Junction's Back Street Salon reported a break-in Wednesday, March 2 after finding a shattered front window and equipment stolen from the salon and the body piercing room towards the back of the building.

Employees believe the burglary occurred either late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning. They found a large rock inside the building surrounded by broken glass from the window. Handmade jewelry, a laptop, several pieces of salon equipment and vintage clothing were some of the missing items.

Employee Melissa Rook said Back Street Salon staff has spread the word to friends, family and local businesses to help make them aware of the need to maintain and upgrade security of any valuables and to help recover the stolen items.

"All of us made phone calls to pretty much any-

body we know," Rook said. "We called all the pawn shops and posted descriptions of everything stolen. We're hoping even if we can't catch [the culprits], we can at least make it difficult for them to get rid of the items."

Tyler Schaffer said he called the Josephine County Sheriff's Office at about 7:45 a.m. Wednesday. Police took photos and collected fingerprints from some of the objects.

Rook said she had noticed a small group who looked to be in their teens walking around the property, one asking about body piercing jewelry and its worth.

The culprit, or culprits, appeared to leave behind several footprints and fingerprints that police took samples of to enter into their database.

"We took extra care that we did not disturb anything," Rook said. "[Police] said they wished more people would call in [crime] because they're trying to have more of a response. If more people are calling they can get more fingerprints in the system and have a lot more awareness of what is going on."

Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Erin Maue said if the prints were usable, they would be sent to the Oregon State Police (OSP) forensic lab in Salem for processing.

According to salon owner Crystal Reed, the window was repaired and they're planning to ramp up security with window bars, cameras and an alarm system.

"We're just buckling down and making sure this doesn't happen again," Reed said. "It makes things a little uncomfortable. We had to take all the extra security precautions that a salon shouldn't have to take. Why would you break into a salon?"

Reed and Rook both said community members have stepped up to show their support, helping get the word out and promising to let them know if they found more information.

"A lot of people have come in and shown their support," Reed said. "There are a lot of business owners in the area and they're standing behind us as well. It's so nice to have that outreach from the community."