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Storm wrecks havoc in Valley

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley residents from Selma to O'Brien lost power Sunday, March 13 when high winds and heavy rain brought down several trees and damaged power lines.

After the storm hit Sunday afternoon, Takilma residents also lost 911 service. According to the Josephine County 911 agency, extra fire personnel

were posted at IV Fire Station 1 at 679 Caves Hwy, Cave Junction and IV Fire Station 3 at 100 Lone Mountain Rd, O'Brien.

Power outages aren't exactly new in the area, but the heavy storm had other effects. Trees and branches blew down, including one of the largest trees on the Illinois Valley Golf Course.

"It's just heartbreaking," said golf course manager Barbara Lane, who saw the tree survive many years

of winter weather before it succumbed on Sunday.

Lane said the tree was a landmark of the "signature" hole number five at the course, challenging golfers with its somewhat inconvenient location.

While parts of the Valley regained power by Monday morning, JoCo 911 public safety supervisor Kristine Crewse said areas of Thompson Creek and Lakeshore had no phone service at all and Takilma residents could only

make local calls on landlines, and not 911.

"There are technicians from Frontier out in the area," Crewse said. "They were not able to give us any updates but they're working on the problem."

The 911 outage was thought to result from an unknown type problem with the phone system. Affected residents were encouraged to use cell phones to call 911 as needed.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, *Illinois Valley News*)

Illinois Valley High School students organized a walkout Friday, March 11 to protest Governor Scott Walker's budget bill restricting collective bargaining. Many expressed support of teachers and unions, calling Walker's decision unfair. See story A-4.

IVHS Festival Concert a hit

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

The music program at Illinois Valley High School appears to be gaining momentum.

On Thursday, March 3, band, orchestra and choir students hosted the Festival Concert for family members, friends and fellow students. According to director Sean McKee, it was possibly the most successful concert he's run at IVHS.

"The students did a wonderful job presenting very difficult music," McKee said. "From front to end, it was continuously high quality."

McKee said he received compliments from audience members appreciating the higher level of difficulty performed by students. Over time, he said he has worked to introduce challenging music that students and observers can still relate to.

Due to the trimester system at the school, not everyone stays in band or choir all year long, and some switch from one ensemble to another. Sometimes, it's a challenge getting everyone on the same page.

"Some have been in [music] groups the whole year and some have not," McKee said. "That's probably been one of our biggest challenges, taking required classes and doing fine arts as well."

Folk songs, Shostakovich and jazz vocals were just some of the song styles performed during Thursday's concert. Students spend between ten and 12 weeks preparing music, but also study theory and music history.

In the last three-and-a-half years at Illinois Valley High School, McKee said music students are getting more consistent and performing at a higher quality overall.

And practicing at school isn't enough. Music students also spend time outside of class fine-tuning their craft.

"There's a tremendous amount of work students have to put in," McKee said. "But they can really see the results of their work at the end. It's like we take a final at the concert...the whole community gets to see the results."

Dome School fund-raiser celebrates Women's Day

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley residents celebrated the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day at a Takilma Dome School fund-raiser Saturday, March 12 at the Selma Community Center.

Several local female artists, the Wild Azaleas belly dancing group, singers, tap dancers and comedienne entertained audiences and honored women's advancements and progress in the last 100-plus years.

Deb Murphy, who helped organize artists and performed a stand-up routine Saturday, said the event is one way women can feel free to express themselves without feeling the need to hold back.

"Women here are free to share their talents in a way many women in other parts of the world cannot," Murphy said. "It's awesome and empowering."

Some of the artists

who had work on display were Judy Mayo, Kathryn Roll, Rachel Goodman, Barb Leon and Jennifer Jacobson.

Local musicians Carol Valentine and Libby Goines sang together Saturday night as well. Men and women of all ages attended the event and lasagna, quiche and Kate Dwyer desserts were served.

"A large number of people helped make it happen: kids from the middle school and high school, parents and community members," Murphy said. "We were joking that it takes the whole Valley to put on this event."

Roll was also the event coordinator for the Dome School, whom Murphy called the "volunteer extraordinaire" for her efforts in organizing the many volunteers who pitched in.

The Dome School has held the Women's Day fund-raiser for about 18 years. This time, it was hosted at the Selma Community Center because another major fund-raiser, a Mardi Gras celebration, was held at the Takilma Community Building just the week before.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, *Illinois Valley News*)

Illinois Valley resident Deb Murphy helped organize artists and musicians, and performed a stand-up routine on Saturday, March 12.