

Title I funds to improve Lorna Byrne technology

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Over two years ago, Lorna Byrne Middle School put together a school improvement plan for the future. Part of that plan includes a technology upgrade that could put the school ahead of most others in the Three Rivers School District, and possibly Southern Oregon.

Middle school principal Damian Crowson said Lorna Byrne is in the final stages of securing Title I grant funds of \$40,000 for computer lab upgrades and Promethean instructional boards.

"It's basically an interactive white board," Crowson said. "The technology and advantages we have using a Promethean board will really improve instruction."

Students can also interact directly with material on the screen using electronic remotes such as the iClicker used in many colleges.

Phase one of the improvement plan on technology was a new computer lab for this year. Now, the school is working on the second phase for interactive boards in upper-level classrooms and upgrades on technology in the library.

The upstairs computer lab has one Promethean board,

which Crowson said is already making a difference in getting students interested in lessons.

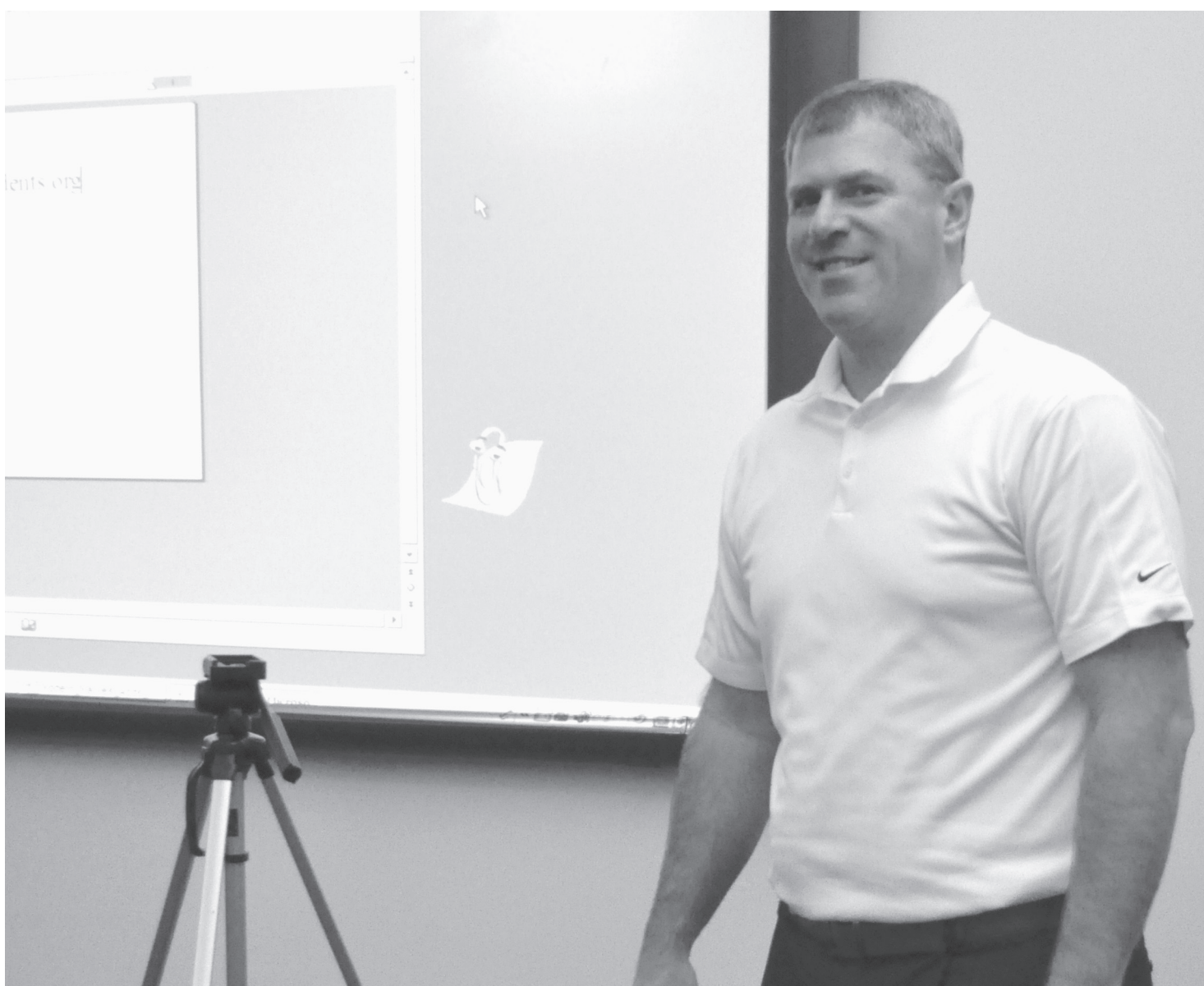
"This will put us way ahead of the curve as far as other schools in the region," Crowson said. "[Students] are very engaged; they like the use of technology. Our attendance has gone up...I'd like to say some of it has to do with the engaging activities we're doing with technology in the classrooms now."

Crowson said he expected the second phase of the technology upgrades to begin near the end of the school year in May or June.

"With Title I dollars it has to be targeted in a school improvement plan with how it's going to be spent," Crowson said. "These plans were made well in advance of our economic downturn."

Buildings at Lorna Byrne were built with infrastructure to support increased technology, a factor that Crowson says will make it easier to add computers and other upgrades more effectively, since the framework is already in place.

"Kids are going to have to get more tech-savvy," Crowson said. "The world's moving that way, and we might as well get the technology here to get them prepared for it."



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

Lorna Byrne Middle School principal Damian Crowson shows off one of the Promethean boards that will soon be a part of the classroom.

IVHS students protest in support of Wisconsin teachers

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Protests in Wisconsin over collective bargaining rights have sparked several other protests in solidarity with Wisconsin's teachers.

Demonstrations officially spread to the Valley on Friday, March 11, when 20-30 Illinois Valley High School students walked out of class and into downtown Cave Junction to show their

support for teachers.

IVHS student Natalie Wellen said she began making plans for the walkout Thursday, March 10. But she didn't anticipate how many people would show up Friday.

Though IVHS staff estimated that there were between 20 and 30 students who walked out, the actual numbers were likely much higher.

"We started in the music room where we meet every day," Wellen said. "I told a couple

of friends that we planned on doing a school walkout at 2 o'clock...the word just kind of spread a lot more than I expected."

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker signed a controversial bill Thursday, March 10, that eliminates most collective bargaining rights for public workers, limiting their ability to negotiate wage increases.

"I think it seems unfair," said one of the student protestors, Kayla Johnson.

Students gathered in front of the county building and also lined up near Sterling Bank and across the street. Several held handmade signs and chanted, "Save the unions" and "Protect our rights." At least one student had a guitar. Though high in energy, the demonstration was civil.

"We've had a lot of positive support from cars driving by," Wellen said. "We're trying to make sure everybody knows we're here to support, not tear down anyone."



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

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Solution on page B-2

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU
1. Each of the numbers from 1 to 9 should only be placed once in each column.
2. Each number from 1 to 9 can be placed only once in each row.
3. The numbers 1 to 9 can appear only once in each 3x3 grid.

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