

# Alternative schools offer a different choice

By  
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IVN Contributing Writer

Most children in the Illinois Valley will be heading for public school in the next few weeks. But, for those parents who can find the means to be more selective, three alternative schools boast more favorable teacher-to-student ratios and work to address the spiritual as well as the intellectual needs of their students.

Madrone Adventist Elementary School, located on Holland Loop, began school August 19. This fully accredited institution operates somewhat like the classic one-room schoolhouses which were scattered across the valley 100 years ago.

Teacher Amy Whitchurch teaches students ranging from first through eighth grade and points out that often the best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else. Her students help each other learn math and English, as well as important social skills.

The school boasts a non-denominational approach to learning and along with the standard curriculum emphasizes Bible stories and a love of God. Each day begins and ends with prayer.

Due to the small number of students, they're able to take

many field trips. For example, in September, they'll go to Crater Lake; and each spring they go to the YMCA in Grants Pass for swimming lessons.

Community Christian Academy was established in 1974 and utilizes the Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) Ministries curriculum. A ministry of Community Bible Church, it shares the same building complex on Lister Street in Cave Junction.

The academy's goals are divided into four primary objectives including Spiritual, Intellectual, Physical and Social. Strong emphasis is placed on mastering the basics of math, English, social studies, science and the Bible. They also offer physical education, music, art and various electives.

Senior students compete with students from other A.C.E. schools in sports, music and the arts. The academy is also a member of the Oregon Schools Activities Association which further allows them to engage in interscholastic activities.

The large facility is divided into four age-group learning centers. It also has a chapel, gym, playground, kitchen and dining room. The principal is Michelle Harris and school will begin September 4.

The Dome School in Takilma began in 1975 as a home-schooling collective. Classes were initially held in a dome struc-

ture. The school's present building, also known as the Takilma Community Building (TCB), was constructed four years later. This multi-purpose building is located on eight acres of community-owned forest. The location provides a natural atmosphere and opportunities for science, nature studies and recreation.

Parent and community involvement is a basic tenet at the Dome School. Teachers integrate interests of students, parents and community volunteers to create unique curriculum each year. The main school room is divided by a folding wall. One side, taught by Alison Gutshall, is devoted to pre-school and kindergarten and Katherine Roncalio teaches elementary students on the other side.

The goals for the school include allowing each child to follow their own natural curiosity and creativity, develop their academic potential, social skills and emotional needs. Many Illinois Valley High School valedictorians and salutatorians are Dome School graduates.

Dome School will start September 9. Pre-school enrollment is filled, but there are still openings for elementary students.

All three schools have a non-discriminatory policy concerning race, color, creed, religion, and national and ethnic origin.

# Straight from the horse's mouth, equine group to stay at food booth during fair

By  
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This year nestled between the Lions Club and the Hidden Valley food booths at the Josephine County fair was our very own equestrian team running the Illinois Valley sports food booth. In 2012 the equestrian team took over the food booth from the I.V. Booster Club.

"We were looking for an investment for the equestrian team. Something to help get the team off to a good start each year," said Desiree Eddy, one of the coaches for the team.

Last year the team mainly wanted to get a feel for the food booths and to see what kind of competition they were up against, what other food vendors had to offer fair patrons.

"We didn't do very well last year but we wanted to give it one more try this year. If we aren't successful we would gracefully give the booth back to the fair and find another fundraiser," said Eddy.

To stand out from the crowd of the many food vendors the equestrian team came up with quirky names for the food served. Names like I.V. News Hot off the Press Burger, which was a 1/3 pound garlic burger served with mushrooms and pepper jack cheese, which was a sponsored burger from the I.V. News and The Gasinator consisting of habanero and jalapeño peppers

and pepper jack cheese was sponsored by Selmac Auto.

Fair goers were skittish about trying The Gasinator until one of the equestrian members gave one to a KLDR D.J. to try. After that the burger became very popular. The team and volunteers also coordinated colored shirts throughout the weekend in an effort to help promote the booth and the newbies to the fair vending scene.

The equestrian team along with parent volunteers were also up in the grand stands dancing during events selling water in another effort to help promote the I.V. Sports Booth and themselves. During which time they sold thirty-two cases of water and pumped up business in the booth.

According to Eddy, people were looking for something unique and slightly different from the normal fair food. That's what the equestrian team tried to give them. Along with the sponsored items there were pulled pork sandwiches, homemade chili for chili dogs, and biscuits and gravy.

"We thought we were going to get a lot of grief for the silly names for the food, but everyone was very receptive and thought they were funny and creative," Eddy said.

Eddy stated that because they are a horse club they try and stay away from the normal businesses that are hit up for annual sports do-

nations. Instead, they try to come up with new and inventive ways to raise money for the riders. When they do ask for donations or sponsorships they try to deal with horse related businesses, such as The Building Supply and the different granges through-out the Rogue Valley. On average, the equestrian team goes through about \$8,000 per year. This is due to when they travel to meet the team is responsible for not only housing themselves but their horses as well plus food expenses. Although hay and grain can be brought with the team, it can be just as costly as feeding the team and chaperones. Each team member on average brings at least two horses, times five riders this year, equals a big chunk of change that has to be raised.

In the five years that Eddy and Alicia Kinsey, the second coach for the team, have been coaching the equestrian team has hosted bingo nights, have been servers for the Senior Center and I.V. Fire Department breakfasts, done car washes, and this year they will keep score for the I.V. Lions Labor Day Softball Tournament. They also have bagged groceries at Ray's Food Place in Selma and Shop Smart.

This year they are trying to raise a little more money because they have to order new shirts for each team member as the past shirts are out dated.

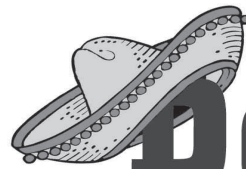
Although the equestrian team were the 'rookies' this year in the food court, they had a

tremendous amount of help and an ample supply of volunteers to help out cooking, serving, taking food orders, and whatever else needed to be done to make the booth run smoothly. Many of the volunteers did not even have a kid on the team. Not only did Michelle Bates and Junior Mavea; just to name a couple of the volunteers; not have a rider, but were at the booth every day of the fair, helping in every way they could. Mavea would complete his shift at his full job but then come to the fair and help in the booth.

"Many times we would have to call him and ask him to pick up supplies that were needed and he would have to pack it in from the YMCA parking lot to the booth," said Eddy "Bates donates much of her time giving riding lessons and loans horses to team members that may not have access to horses or only has one horse available."

The equestrian team did very well this year in the booth and is planning on continuing to run the I.V. Sports food booth at future Josephine County Fairs. With tips and general sales, they made enough money to get off to a good start and possibly purchase some if not all of the new shirts needed for the team and coaches.

If any businesses or individuals wish to donate or sponsor the equestrian team they should contact Eddy at [ivhsequestrian@yahoo.com](mailto:ivhsequestrian@yahoo.com).



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