

Sports



(Courtesy photo for *The Illinois Valley News*)

Archie Griffin, I.V. sixth-grade football quarterback, gives last minute instructions at a game earlier this season. The sixth-grade team ended the season Nov. 2.

Record numbers for LBMS football squads

By
Jenna Larkin
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While in years past the middle school has struggled to field a team, this year's sixth-grade football team had a record number of players.

"The kids grew and learned a lot as a team," said head coach Scott Thornhill.

In the past it has been a struggle to get participation for the lower divisions of football, ultimately leaving the high school short on experienced players. Since the high-school football team joined forces with the Boys and Girls Club football program, the participation has increased with more and more players return-

ing each year. The increase of participation can partly be accredited to the enthusiasm that the younger kids see from the high-school players and the two-day football camp that the IVHS football program holds each summer for the younger players.

Compared to two years ago, Thornhill was able to field full teams last season and this season.

"We have a good thing going. If the entire sixth-grade team moves up next season, the seventh/eighth-grade team will be bigger and stronger," Thornhill said.

Ultimately, Thornhill would like to move up with his team, but that all depends on what his work schedule allows and finding a replacement coach for the sixth-grade team.

With the future of the football program looking strong here in the Valley, Thornhill's main goal is to keep the kids focused and eager to return for more seasons. Parent involvement is a key factor in getting kids to participate in sports.

With 18 rostered players on the sixth-grade football team this season, most of who will go up to the seventh/eighth-grade team, LBMS football is looking strong.

"The season was fair, there is always more room for wins but the season was fun," said head coach Tony Hess.

In past seasons the team has struggled to gain enough players, normally around 15 kids. This season, however, the team doubled in size. Over half of the team were seventh-graders and

are expected to return. Combined with the upcoming sixth-graders, the team will continue to look strong for the next few seasons.

Hess came down from coaching at the high school to help get the Lorna Byrne football team in order and back on track. Much of the season was geared towards learning new strategies on offense and looking for weaknesses and turning those into strengths. The defense was strong this year. Two of the four losses were only by five points, much of that accredited to the defense staying strong under pressure. The Vikings finished off the season with a 3-4 record.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to coach this team and looking forward to developing the skills and better football players," Hess said.

College night draws big crowd at IVHS

By
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The cafeteria at Illinois Valley High School was packed full of students and their parents eager to learn about college and how to get prepared early during College Night Oregon. The event, held Nov. 14, also featured pizza and beverages for those who attended.

College Nights is sponsored by Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC). ECMC is a company that specializes in student loans and how to manage financing college funds and other expenses during college years. College Nights events are held throughout four states (Oregon, California, Connecticut and Virginia) in early November. College Nights offers a series of mini workshops geared towards parents and students getting

ready to graduate from high school and head off to college.

This year there were four locations in Josephine and Jackson counties that patrons could attend the workshops which were presented by College Dreams and Rogue Community College: White City, Table Rock campus; Medford, Riverside campus; Grants Pass, Redwood campus and Cave Junction.

Patrice Tucker, a counselor at IVHS, started the evening off by thanking everyone for coming and thanking those who made the College Nights Oregon possible. Monet Talty, College Dreams talent specialist for LBMS and IVHS; Kim Disimore, talent search director for College Dreams; Jen Perry, Preparation Specialist for College Dreams for Hidden Valley High School and Lincoln Savage Middle School and Shauna Law, a final aid specialist at RCC.



(Photo by Jenna Larkin, *Illinois Valley News*)

College night scholarship recipients Caleb Mayville (left), Myles Hodge, Natasha Elkins and Keith Lewin.

See College on A-5

Arts Red Garter
Where the Valley comes to play
Karaoke - Dancing Live Music

B Wishes
Friday, Nov. 22 @ 5:30 p.m.
Taylor's Country Store

Wild River J BARLEY
Sat., Nov. 23 @ 6 p.m.
Every Wed Open Mic. Night From 6-8 p.m.

For Rent
You saw it So will your customers
592-2541

Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill
Tuesday to Sunday Noon to Close
Happy Hour 3-5 Stop in and see Kate and Mamie Today!

"Ras Cricket and the Cultivators"
Friday, Nov. 22th 9 p.m. Free Show
@ **Mc Grew's Course**