

Sports

Boys and Girls Club football season underway



4th and 5th grade Boys and Girls Club football team played a home game Saturday, Sept. 21.

(Photo courtesy of Kelli Augustadt for The Illinois Valley News)

Lady Cougars soccer squad picks up two more wins

By
Jenna Larkin
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The Lady Cougar soccer squad is looking strong this season, winning two of three games this past week.

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, the Cougars took on the Bruins with a 2-1 win. The next day proved to be a little tougher when IVHS hosted Crater, a 5-A school. With every effort put forward, the Lady Cougars lost to Crater 0-3.

“They played with lots of energy and intensity,” said head coach Dick Matte.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the girls traveled to Lakeview to take on the Honkers and picked up a 4-0 win.

So far this season, the Lady Cougars are 1-0 in league and 3-3 in conference. Coach Matte said he could not be more proud of the girls.

The first goal of the game against the Honkers came 11 minutes in by junior Cameila Swenson, assisted by sophomore

Aundrea Miller. Senior Mikael Cusumano scored the second goal at the 24 minute mark with another assist by Miller.

Junior Andrea Hong, an exchange student, scored the third goal of the game early in the second half on an assist from Hannah Elmer. The final goal of the game was scored by Cusumano at the 74 minute mark. Goal keeper Chawna Crawford kept the Honkers at bay with 11 saves during the game.

There are 17 girls on the squad, only five of which are new to the team. Matte feels that the girls have improved greatly from last season.

“The girls are improving daily,” said Matte.

The girls are secluded to compete against Cascade Christian on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at home.

With the girls doing well halfway through the season, the boys are just now finding their place as a team. In the beginning of the season head coach Brad Carlson was not sure there would even be a team. Due to injuries and lack of interest in the game, players were slow to join up. Those that have

joined the squad are glad that they did.

Coach Carlson has mostly focused on becoming a team and conditioning instead of winning. With so little practices and not having been able to practice as a full team, Carlson feels this is the best approach for the season.

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, the boys went up against the Bruins at home. While the boys were able to stay competitive for most of the game, the Bruins dominated with a 6-1 win. The Cougars scored their only goal on a penalty. Freshman Huver Rodriguez made the goal.

“The boys are really excited and improving,” Carlson said.

After the game against the Bruins, a player came up to Carlson and stated that, “This is the best lost we have ever had.”

“The boys understand about not really winning but working together,” Carlson said of the team.

The boys were scheduled to go up against Ashland while at home on Monday, Sept. 22.

IVHS learns and expands with a much needed grant

By
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A few years ago Three River School District applied for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, otherwise known as the 21st Century grant. The grant is available to each school for three years. When it runs out, a school may reapply, but has to wait for at least a year. Evergreen, Lorna Byrne (LBMS) and Illinois Valley High School have all received grant funding.

Last year was LBMS and Evergreen’s last year to receive funding from the grant, but marked the beginning for Illinois Valley High School.

“Illinois Valley High School has received a blessing,” said IVHS Principal Jamie Ongman.

The grant covers a wide array of opportunities for not only students, but for parents and community members as well.

IVHS is currently working with community partners to ensure that the grant is

used to its full potential and that the community sees what a great opportunity this grant is for students and the public. The partners also help provide resources for the students that otherwise the school district might not be able to help. The Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC) is one of the leading partners. They are also helping in providing different arts to the students of IVHS and working on providing the same to the community.

Ongman admits that there were some trial and errors with trying to figure out what would work and what would not when it came to choosing extra-curricular activities. This year there have been some major improvements and the students are excited to receive the extra learning opportunities.

“Now we know what we don’t know,” said Ongman. “Now we know ways to expand and continue to grow the program to affect our kids and the parents and community.”

The 21st Century grant has two aspects to it, the enrichment side and academic side. The enrichment side provides after-school learning

classes that otherwise are not provided in a regular school day. These classes are provided on Mondays and Wednesdays. The classes cover pottery, dance and guitar. Also included are a nutritional foods class and an extension of welding that is provided during the school day. Ongman would like to see many more classes offered. Some of those classes could include rock climbing, tennis and woodshop. Mountain biking will also be offered in the near future.

On the academic side, the grant allows extra support for students that may need a little more help in one or more subjects. During an instructional day, learning is based on proficiency learning. Basically, students have to show that they are proficient to a certain degree on their learning standards or what is currently being taught. In order for students to become proficient, the school has to be able to provide intervention time where the student gets one-on-one help from teachers outside of the normal classroom. Because of the 21st Century grant, students are able to receive an extra four hours of academic help per week from the teachers. That

may not seem like a lot, but to that one student who is struggling, it makes a huge difference. Every day in the morning for a half hour before school, two teachers are available for tutoring. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, academic support is provided. Students are able to go and spend time with a teacher on a certain subject and get that extra support.

The 21st Century grant not only provides education for students, but community education as well. As of right now, there are no community classes available through the grant, but IVHS will be working with their site council to best develop those classes. Discussions will begin on how to branch out to the community and see what the public might be interested in and what needs might need to be met. The grant also enables IVHS to assist parents that have children attending the school with educational opportunities. Again, this is not yet in place but will be in the near future, Ongman said.

See Grant on A-8

Art’s Red
Garter
Friday
Night Open
Mic and
Karaoke!

Lonesome
Road
Friday, Sept. 26
@ 5:30 p.m.

Taylor’s
Country Store

Tim Mitchell
Sat., Sept. 27 @ 6 p.m.

Every Friday
Jay Barley
Every Wednesday
Open Mic. Night
From
6-8 p.m.

Saturday
Night Pool
Tourney
@
Sportsmans
Tavern

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

Free Monday
Night
Football
\$1 Tacos
@
McGrew’s
of Course!