

IVHS football wins big at auction

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IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley High School's (IVHS) football program held its largest fundraiser of the year Saturday night at the Siskiyou Smokejumper's Base Museum - and the 2016 Touchdown Auction was a blazing success, raising over \$10,000.

The highlight of the evening was the live auction. A few of the big ticket items included a night at the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve's historic Chalet; a two-night stay at Sun River in Bend; a quilt donated by the Valley Girls; a cord of firewood; and perhaps the most popular item was four hours of labor from the football team.

"Ten members of the team stood in front of the crowd when the bidding for them started, and you could see how proud they all were. They stood so straight," said Mary Valenzuela, one of the event's key organizers. "Team members also walked out the auction items and they presented themselves so well. They also helped set the place up and tear it down after."

Valenzuela's son, Three Rivers School District Superintendent Dave Valenzuela, was a big crowd pleaser in his role as auctioneer.

"Dave was phenomenal," said head football coach Bruce Reece. "We wouldn't have had so many people give as much as they did without Dave interacting with people and joking around the way he did."

"It was a good time," said Dave Valenzuela. "I was thrilled to be the auctioneer. I love connecting with people and meeting new people. We even had a big bunch from Rogue Community College there and Link and Jennifer Phillippi came along with them. That was pretty cool. There were so many really generous people."

Organization for the fundraiser began in June and was a real family affair. Reece's wife, Danielle, is also Mary Valenzuela's daughter, and Mary's niece, Sheri Larson, also helped spear-head the event.

"Sheri is a real go-getter, she really helped make it all happen," Mary Valenzuela said. "She knew how to organize the auction because she'd done it before. Overall, it took a village; so many people just jumped in and really helped us."

"What amazed me was when we went out and solicited donations from our local businesses, how everyone willingly pitched in," Danielle Reece said. "I know they get hit up a lot for donations, but we'd walk into a business and give them our sponsors' letter, and they'd say, 'Well, of course!' We're so grateful for their generosity."

Dinner, catered by Carlos Restaurante, was a big hit as well. "The food was wonderful," Mary Valenzuela said. Over 100 people attended the fundraiser. And while 200 tickets were sold, the heat kept some people home, she added. "But the weather cooperated - and the yellow jackets stayed away. We had a nice breeze."

Danielle Reece said that finding a venue for the event was challenging until Gary Thornhill, a former smokejumper, suggested the Smokejumper's Museum. "So we went out and met with him and Gary Buck," she said. "They want people to come out and enjoy the museum and use the facility, which is really nice. They've put a lot of work into it, everything is so clean and manicured, it's a real asset to the Valley. And the scenery is gorgeous - the sunset out there was beautiful. I didn't spend much time there when I was growing up in the Valley, but going out there now, you can walk around and remember what the smokejumpers were to this Valley."

Funds raised at the event will buy tee shirts, shorts and practice uniforms, and some of the money will help with travel expenses, Coach Reece said. "We already purchased new uniforms and helmets, anticipating that this money would come in. The community has really embraced this football team and we're really grateful and want to thank everyone who donated to the auction and attended the event. Good things are coming up for the team."

The team benefits from a deep pool of coaching talent. There's 10 assistant coaches, and they all attended the fundraiser, along with their significant others. "And that even includes our new principal, Tanner Smith," Coach Reece said.

"A lot of people really seem to jump in to back the kids here, and that's awesome. I kind of get goose bumps, witnessing this level of



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Three Rivers School District Superintendent Dave Valenzuela auctions off a letter jacket during a successful fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 27 at the Illinois Valley Airport.

community support, how much they want to help out," Smith said.

Football season starts Friday night at Scio High School. The first home game is in Sept. 9, at 7 p.m., and the IVHS Cougars will play Santiam Christian High School. "It'd be great if a lot of people come and watch them play and help us win. It only costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for children," he added. "We're continuing to build our program and we're very excited about the season."

Smith reported that 30 players turned out for football practice Monday night, and said, "We anticipate that number will grow once school gets started. The program is definitely headed in the right direction. Bruce is a great coach, and I've seen a lot of good coaches. We're lucky to have him here."

<p>Art's Red Garter</p> <p>POOL TOURNEY Tuesdays @ 6:30</p> <p>KARAOKE Wednesdays 9 PM</p> <p>Rockets Friday 9 p.m. DeLuxe Band Sat. & Sun. 9 p.m.</p>	<p>Tim & Michelle</p> <p>Friday, Sept. 2 5:30 PM</p> <p>from Taylor's Country Store</p>	<p>Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE</p> <p>GUPPY Saturday night @ 6</p> <p>Every Wednesday Open MIC Night 6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Jay Barley Fridays @ 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Karaoke w/ Steve</p> <p>Friday, Sept. 2 @ 9 p.m.</p> <p>Pool Tourney - Saturdays at 7</p> <p>Free Pool on Sunday</p> <p>Sportsman Tavern</p>	<p>The G Spot</p> <p>Jammer's Hump Day Karaoke 8 p.m. -midnight</p> <p>OPEN MIC THURSDAYS 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>BEN RICE Fri., Sept. 2, 8 - 11 p.m.</p> <p>Closed Saturday for Labor Day Festival</p>	<p>SOUTHBOUND</p> <p>Friday, Sept. 2 7 PM \$3-5 donation</p> <p>Eat @ McGrew's!</p>
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HEALTH Huge Topic: Lots of Parts What's one healthy thing you do? #selfcareshealthcare

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Karen McCullough
Kathy Lombardo
Kathy Mechling
Kathy Schwindt
Kim Young
Lea Lynx
Lindsey Gillette | Playing with dog
Go to coast
Hiking
Yoga!
Practice Tai Chi
Walk daily
Meditate
Read Newspapers
Ask God's Blessing
Support groups
Keep Active
Healthy Body Project
Hike
Music
Swim, walk dog, juice
CJ Patrols
Enjoy my trees & cat
Eat a lot of salads
Regular fitness training
Walking in the woods
Grow our own food
Forest Therapy
Yoga & positive attitude
Eat well, Live well
Play Daily
Laugh everyday | Lorraine Saffer
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Sharon Locke
Shirley Rusk
SueEllen Fasching
Susan Eby
Ted & Jannie Crocker
Tom & Kathy Carlisle | Go to church regularly
Sit by our river
Weekly massage
Vegan Meals
Walk dog
Swimming
Swimming
Hug an animal
Commit to exercising
Eat veggies. Like, lots.
Striving for integrity
Walk 30 minutes a day
Walking
Breathe
Hot Body Project
Yoga
Keep Running
Eat right
Hike with friends
Hot Body Project
Walk the dog
Learning patience
Positive mental attitude
Follow doctor's orders
IV Rotary Club
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Theresa Zick | Enjoys pets & bird watching
Telling my dogs we're going for a walk
Exercising 6 days a week
Walking, Zumba, diet of minimal animal products and NO DRUGS!
Cook good food for friends
Start & end the day with prayer
Keep connected through writer's group
5 pm swim & then wine
Eat locally grown organic
Yoga on vibration platform
Jog & keep fit for Cycle Oregon
Sprouting & fermenting
Play with grandchildren
Don't worry; play music
Essential oils for mind, body, heart
Herb & vegetable gardening
Bicycle, hike & hula hoop
Walk, garden & volunteer
Vegetarian yoga addiction
Eat right & exercise; sing & dance
Veggie fruit smoothie every single day
Good food good friends, yogs
Water veggie garden early AM
Meditating on God's word
Stay away from junk food & pray |
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