

IVHS hosts career workshop during open house

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IVN Contributing Writer

Gene Merrill, the College and Career advocate at Illinois Valley High School, is hosting an open house from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. during parent conference day on Thursday, Nov. 17. At this event community members and parents alike can stop by to educate themselves about career training in the form of trade school or technical certifications. Advice regarding job opportunities and financial aid will be readily available as well. Merrill came to the high school from the “business world” and his resume includes,

but is not limited to, five years’ experience in company management as well as small business ownership.

Questions about adult financial aid will be greatly encouraged as there are a lot of options out there for people of low income and Merrill says that he will do his best to inform those who attend with the latest information. For some, the multitude of financial aid options could pay, “A huge portion or even all,” of their expenses. One example of an upcoming financial aid program that the Rogue Community College is rolling out has been named the Southern Oregon Hope Grant and it focuses on 17 different fields of

healthcare. Reportedly, it is likely that around two thirds of qualified applicants will receive the grant and if the applicant does not have a GED or high school diploma it will even assist you in attaining those before you move on. Other notable financial aid opportunities that were mentioned were the Ford Restart, which is for people 25 and over, and the Ford Opportunity scholarship, which is for single parents. These three examples are not a comprehensive list of available financial aid.

“If we’re going to make any difference in the Illinois Valley we can’t just look at what we can do for students; we need to look at what we

can do for the greater community as well,” Merrill stated, hoping to attract community members to his event. With around 26 percent of the Illinois Valley being elderly or retired it was also stated that the medical field will likely see even more increases in job availability since Grant’s Pass has been steadily increasing the number of health care facilities over the years. Merrill however made a point that healthcare is not the only field that has job openings and that people with the type of higher education he is advocating for average almost double the income of those with only a GED or high school diploma. In addition to advice about higher education

opportunities the administrator for the Southern Oregon Hope Grant will be attending the event so it will be possible to get information directly from the primary source.

“There’s a huge amount of careers out there that people just don’t know about,” Merrill said, after listing off a few programs. The career center has room for 20-30 people and though even a few showing up will make Merrill’s day he would love to have it packed to capacity. If the reader would like to attend, Merrill asks that you either call the school in advance or, if you’d rather use the internet, you can log onto Facebook then go to the Illinois Valley High School page and RSVP.

Float permit lottery application process announced

Grants Pass, Ore. -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are pleased to make the Rogue River Non-Commercial Float Permit Lottery application process more convenient by making it available online. Non-Commercial whitewater boaters hoping to float the wild section of the Rogue River during the 2017 season will now be able to submit their lottery applications online at: www.recreation.gov.

Permits are required May 15 through Oct. 15 to float the wild section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, which extends from Grave Creek to Watson Creek.

The lottery application period will be open Dec. 1, 2016 through Jan. 31, 2017 and will only be available through Recreation.gov. There is a fee of \$6 per application to apply to the lottery. More information and instructions

are available at: www.blm.gov/rogueriver.

Lottery application assistance is also available during the open period by calling 1-877-444-NRRS (6777).

With the permit lottery offered through Recreation.gov, both successful and unsuccessful lottery applicants will be notified for the first time and those notifications will be provided on Feb. 10, 2017, 20 days earlier than the previous system.

Applicants will also be able to check their Recreation.gov profile to view details of their lottery results.

After the lottery closes, all successful permit reservations and float space openings resulting from cancellations, will be managed by the Smullin Visitor Center at Rand. For more information email the Smullin Visitor Center: BLM_OR_MD_Rogue_River_Mail@blm.gov.

DOME . . .

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There was a big rush to get the 2,400 square foot building completed in time for the 1983 fall semester, and also, for a big Halloween party. The community pulled it off and the party was held and classes at the new Dome School began the following week.

Because the school - and the community - continued to grow, space has always been an issue, so several additions through the years include a modern commercial kitchen, an office, another classroom, a storage room, bathroom and a lobby.

Through all these years the building has effectively doubled as both a school and a community hub. Several hundred students have passed through the school’s doors, and countless events have been held. With each event, classrooms are broken down and all the chairs, tables, supplies and chalk boards are stored away. Hundreds of volunteers participating in the all the meetings, fundraisers, dances and other parties have moved those chairs and tables over and over again, so that each new school day, the children get their classrooms back.

Now, a major expansion project is underway to add

2,000 square feet of space to the school and according to Kendal, the addition will feature “two dedicated classrooms totally outfitted with a library, bathrooms and a foot-thick sound-proof wall between them.

“Finally, we’re going to get the classrooms out of the community space. This is going to make such a huge difference in facilitating the use of the main space,” Kendal said. “And interestingly enough, Robert Hirning, Kerry Whitehead, Mark Kelz and myself, who were all involved in working on the original building in the current location - we’re all involved in the expansion now.”

Once the expansion is complete - hopefully before the

start of the next school year - the Dome School community looks forward to sharing the main building with the larger community to accommodate more events and classes, some of which will be able to get rolling immediately after school hours.

Completion of the project is dependent on fundraising. So far, about \$200,000 has been raised: including \$30,000 from in-kind donations and services and \$57,500 in grant money. Organizers say this \$200,000 represents 64 percent of the total cost - thus fundraising efforts continue; to donate contact the school at 541-592-3911.

SCHOOL . . .

Continued from A-4

The Dome School enjoys enormous academic success. Many Illinois Valley High School valedictorians attended the school, and most recently, top honors were achieved by Oberon Fayland and Kynan Nordal. Dome School children also impact the greater community in myriad ways, for example, Nalita Kendal Baumack now runs the early head start program in Cave Junction

“But more importantly,” said Katherine Roncollio, who recently retired after teaching at the Dome School for 27 years, “we have put out so many kids who are free thinkers and are in successful in so many different ways. They’re lifelong learners, creative thinkers and great community contributors. And best of all, our Dome School kids often enroll their own kids in the school. The legacy is intact and growing. That’s the real satisfaction.”

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Kale, cranberries, lemon poppy seed dressing.
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Cauliflower..... **\$1.59 ea.** Reg. \$2.09 ea.

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Cranberries..... **\$3.29 ea.** Reg. \$4.09 ea.

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