

Lorna Byrne track team crosses the finish line

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

The track season at Lorna Byrne Middle School came to its conclusion as of March 11 and the students, who clearly strove for victory, managed to set 10 school records.

The record setters among the girls were: Haleigh Freitas, Violeta Garcia, Alyvia Miller and Alexis Gomez for the 4x100-meter relay, Alexis Gomez for the 400-meter sprint, Sophia Smale for 100-meter hurdles and Daisy Tree for the

javelin throw.

For the boys, the record setters were: Skylar Larkin, Tristen Konrad, Dequan Burton, and Andrew Mendoza for the 4x100-meter relay, Ryan Mattocks for 100-meter hurdles, Josh Polk for 200-meter hurdles, and Andrew Mendoza for high jump.

“They went after it this year,” Bob Clark, assistant coach, said, summarizing the staggering amount of records set this season. Although none of the students qualified for the state competition this year they can rest assured that their efforts are

something to celebrate and that their excellent attitude towards victory is, without a doubt, as contagious as it is respectable.

Clark admitted that he was quite impressed with this season’s results because, like so many other sports this spring, the team was forced to battle with the weather constantly and, despite the hardship, they managed to improve each and every week. Though the season went quite well, Clark said that he and the other coaches identified some things that need to be worked on more extensively next year but

added that all of the current coaches are returning with what they have learned and will put that knowledge to good use.

Reportedly, about half of Clark’s student-athletes will be returning to the team next year for another chance to hone their skills and have fun in the process. Additionally, many of these returning athletes will be experienced eighth-graders that will no doubt boost the team’s competitiveness and provide peer-to-peer coaching for some of the newer members. A great deal of students

who graduate this year, according to Clark, have said that they want to continue doing track events at the high school level so the Illinois Valley High School track team will likely be as healthy as ever next season.

In a concluding statement, Clark said that he wanted to give a special thanks to the coaches and track team members of the Illinois Valley High School who, without hesitation or apprehension, guided his young athletes whenever and wherever they could.

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Councilor Lindsey Gillette expressed her fear that a sudden rate hike could endanger local rivers and streams by motivating unscrupulous consumers to seek free water sources. “I think a gradual increase will be accepted, and we can go from there. I worry about going too far too fast,” she said. Council agreed to move to the \$0.03 per gallon rate and revisit the topic after this summer.

The council also unanimously voted to appoint utility clerk Becky Patton as the new city recorder. Current city recorder Ryan Nolan will be leaving the position after seven years. Patton is already well-versed in what the job entails and will be able to step into the position with minimal training. Nolan addressed the council at the end of the meeting

saying, “I love this town, it’s a great town. This has been a very fun job. And even though people pick on the city of Cave Junction, and government in general, I think it’s the perfect example of the way that government is meant to work, where there are representative people who don’t have axes to grind or some sort of special interest, who want good things for their town. If people want to get things done, there is a process for that to happen.”

The council also voted to not waive this year’s Little League park-use fees after finding out that Little League had received enough donations to cover the fees. A portion of the fees were raised by the local Clampers, and one meeting attendee pledged \$300 on the spot to help the Little League.

The Cave Junction City Council meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 222 W. Lister Street. The public is welcome to attend.



Former C.J. Mayor Carl Jacobson Jr. (left) and Nina Horsley watch the Pet Parade Saturday, April 29 at Jubilee Park.



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