

- LIVE OAK School

Live Oak makes \$168,000 in cuts

Bilingual education trimmed, Life Lab program is spared

By KATHY KREIGER
Sentinel staff writer

6/12-92

■ School custodians out of a job — Page A2

LIVE OAK — The job of running a popular garden-based science program was saved but bus service and bilingual education were trimmed this week as the Live Oak School Board adopted a \$6.2 million budget for next year.

Most of \$168,000 trimmed from the budget came from three programs.

The board cut the \$43,000 position of the Life Lab director, and took \$30,000 from its transportation program, and \$62,000 from its bilingual education program.

Tuesday's meeting drew more than 100 teachers and parents, with the hot topic of the evening the proposed elimination of Life Lab director Dawn Binder's position.

School officials said they had

no intention of terminating the Life Lab program itself.

"We would have eliminated the coordinator, not the garden," said District Superintendent Rudy Carino Thursday. "... The issue was not to shut down the Life Lab program, the issue was to keep it going in other ways."

Other Life Lab programs are run by volunteers and by non-teaching staff, he said.

However, Binder said Thursday that besides keeping the garden going, much of her job involves developing curriculum and "teaching teachers" how to use the garden to teach science.

Please see LIVE OAK — A5



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Jaffy Phillips, a Life Lab aide at Green Acres School, tends the garden Thursday afternoon following the close of the school year. Dawn Binder, director of the project, lost her job to budget cuts.

Live Oak school staff completes strike votes

By KATHY KREIGER
Sentinel staff writer

LIVE OAK — Non-teaching employees in the Live Oak School District agreed Thursday that they'll strike unless school officials come to terms with their union.

In twin, unanimous votes some 35 of the district's 86 classified staff turned down the district's offer and authorized their union to call a strike later this year.

Several steps remain in the bargaining process before a strike would be called, said union representative Margaret Dubois, but Thursday's vote, "sends a message to the district, hopefully, that the people are serious. ... It's pretty significant."

Dubois is the local field representative of the 160,000-member California School Employees Association, which includes bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, food service workers, instructional aides, mechanics, maintenance and grounds workers.

Talks with the district broke down last week, she said.

Dubois said the district wants to establish a commit-

Please see STRIKE — A5