



HOMECOMING ROYALTY - Senior students Sam Green and Andi Mann were honored as 2004 Homecoming king and queen at Illinois Valley High School. Their titles were announced during halftime on Friday, Oct. 15. See page 11 for more photos. (Photo by Dale and Elaine Sandberg)

Cave Junction mom, son die in Grants Pass crash

A Cave Junction woman and one of two child passengers in her vehicle died as a result of injuries suffered in a three-vehicle accident on Redwood Hwy. near Grants Pass Sunday, Oct. 17, said Oregon State Police.

Four other people were reported injured in the crash, a short distance west of Rogue Community College.

Deceased are Heidi Ward, 30, who was pronounced dead at the scene; and Steven Ward, 10, who died the following afternoon at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, where he was transported shortly after the crash, said OSP.

Another passenger, Makala Rae Ward, 9, was treated for serious injuries at Three Rivers Community Hospital (TRCH) in Grants Pass, and released Monday afternoon, Oct. 18, OSP reported.

The agency said that Ward was driving northbound at around 3 p.m. when, for an undetermined reason, her 1989

Plymouth Voyager side-swiped a southbound 2002 Toyota Echo driven by Michaela Raymer, 18, of Arcata, Calif.

The impact spun the van into the path of a southbound 2001 GMC pickup truck driven by William Campbell, 66, of Grants Pass.

The van and pickup collided nearly head-on, OSP said.

Campbell and his passenger, Betty Campbell, 64, were taken to TRCH with serious injuries. Raymer was treated and released with minor injuries.

Based on evidence at the scene, OSP believes that neither Ward nor her passengers were wearing seatbelts.

Both southbound lanes of Hwy. 199 were closed for approximately five hours for investigation and clean-up.

Rural/Metro Fire Dept., Oregon Dept. of Transportation, Josephine County Sheriff's Office, and American Medical Response ambulance assisted at the scene.

Accident claims life of 'cyclist

A Grants Pass motorcyclist, Andrew Charles Best, 24, died of injuries suffered in an accident with a small pickup truck, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO).

JCSO said that the

crash occurred Saturday, Oct. 16 at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the area of Fruitdale Drive and Carnahan Drive.

Officers found Best pinned between the pickup and a tree.

Art as part of life taught by I.V.'s Elaine Barker

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

One teacher making a positive difference is Elaine Barker, an art teacher and yearbook director at Illinois Valley High School -- where she has been for nearly two decades.

She is also the wife of Douglas Cortrecht, to whom she has been married for nearly 30 years. She is also the mother of Ian Barker-Cortrecht, a sophomore at IVHS, and Thea Barker-Cortrecht, a fifth-grader at Evergreen Elementary School.

Before becoming a teacher at the high school, Barker worked at the library for seven years and went to school to receive her teaching credentials.

She has managed to successfully juggle her busy lifestyle and still find time for new projects.

"When my son was in elementary school, Jim Hutchins and I designed the River Calendar Project," she said, "and we were motivated by the fact that getting out of the classroom, having field trip experiences and mixed-aged opportunities, is important and significant. So Jim started the Fish Watch Program at school," she said.

"Students from the elementary school, and art students from the high school go on Fish Watch field trips and take notes and make drawings," said Barker. "These notes and drawings are edited and then used for the River Project Calendar.

"It's neat," she said, "because I have known a lot of my students since elementary school."

Barker believes that this hands-on experience motivates her students to perform their best.

"We started working with a program at school called Expeditionary Learning, and really the premises are dear to my heart," she said.

"It's about having meaningful work, having an authentic audience, that what you do is seen and affects other people," she added. "The students' work is not just a mock-up, it can be applied to real-life situations."



Elaine Barker teaching art students including her son, Ian Barker-Cortrecht.

She has not only adapted this new teaching style and changed the way students view their work, but she also has changed the way students view their yearbook. For the second consecutive year it will be in full color.

Besides seeing color, she has also seen the yearbook undergo many technological changes.

"I've been the yearbook director since I first started here at the high school and back then we had to type everything, stuff them in envelopes and count the characters," she said. "The advance in technology has allowed us to have control over the ultimate quality, so it's fun," said Barker..

In her spare time, she "carves out a few eight-hour blocks of time once or twice a year" and does monoprinting at a friend's studio in Ashland. She also experiments with Japanese papermaking.

"I moved here from Indiana," she said.

"Oregon is sort of the antithesis of the Midwest with mountains and the nearby ocean. We used to live in the mountains here. It was an idyllic pre-fab log home overlooking a pond; and the natural, cold spring water and pond water were ideal for dabbling in Japanese papermaking."

Her fascination with art began at an early age, she added.

"I remember in kindergarten my teacher was talking to my parents about my artwork and I was thinking, 'Yep, I would like to do that,'" said the popular teacher.

Growing up, art was always a part of her life. She majored in studio art while attending DePauw University in Indiana. Also, she has received additional training at various conferences and workshops across the globe.

Much of her award-winning work has been placed in art exhibits across S.W. Oregon.

However, she said, most of her time is spent showing others how to create art. She insists that there's no talent required.

Said Barker, "What's talent if you don't use it? Anyone can learn to draw.

"What I say to my intro students is, 'How many of you learn to read on your own?' It has to be broken into steps. That's my role as a teacher: to break it down into steps and show people the formation of each process."

Being perfect isn't important either, she said

"With art, people respond to the honesty in the work," said Barker. "So whether it represents photographically what you're trying to express is not the point.

"Rather, it's the honesty of what you're trying to express," she concluded.

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