



PICKET FENCE WELCOMED - Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce Greeters Committee visited Picket Fence Fabrics in Cave Junction on Thursday, March 15. (From left) Bob Schumacher, Barbara Klingel (store owner), Dulcie Moore, Vicki Gill and Alice Schaffer. Picket Fence Fabrics can be reached at 592-5003. (Photo by 'IVN')

Cole, Pittman, Holmes, Dominguez among Illinois Valley HS achievers

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

So far, 2007 has proven to be a banner year for a number of Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) students, who have a long list of accomplishments to show for their efforts.

These students have demonstrated excellence in a variety of fields, including athletics, community involvement and art. They also have high hopes for the future, and the skills and ambition to help make their dreams a reality.

Alex Dominguez



Freshman Alex Dominguez remembers taking Nature walks with his mother while growing up locally. Now, he's found a way to blend those landscapes with his lifelong love of art.

Dominguez recently received third place in the freshman division of a regional competition for his scratchboard piece, titled "In the Branches." His other preferred media include painting, charcoal and clay.

Dominguez plans to attend college for art, and would someday like to own a farm and use it as inspiration for future artistic endeavors.

Sheena Cole



IVHS girls basketball star Sheena Cole has gotten much credit for her team's efforts last season. But she is quick to attribute that success to the hard work of others.

"We had a lot of girls that had a lot of heart," Cole said. "We worked together as a team, and didn't want to stop playing."

Cole has been playing basketball since the tender age of 6, and was aided by her mother's constant support and encouragement.

As a young girl, Cole would watch her older

brother's basketball games at North Medford High School. That experience inspired her to join as many teams as she could during the years, including an all-star team that travels to tournaments during the summer.

"It's definitely something I work on in the off-season," Cole said.

This season, Cole played as a point guard, which required some adjustment on her part. But she did well enough to be named the Skyline Conference 2006 Player of the Year, much to her delight.

"That was one of my goals, and I'm glad I achieved it," Cole said. "It meant a lot to me."

Cole, a senior, is now in the process of picking a college. She plans to tour Occidental College in Los Angeles during spring break, and is looking forward to continuing her basketball career at the next level.

"I can't wait," she said.
Jessica Pittman



Senior Jessica Pittman certainly knows what it's like to be busy.

Aside from her school studies, Pittman is active in the IVHS softball program; works at Taylor's Country Sausage; and participates in many community activities.

"I understand having a full day," Pittman said. "I'm always busy doing something."

Aside from the eight years she's spent with the valley 4-H program, Pittman has participated in the Job Council. She was a junior staff member and leader in the Torch Club, and has belonged to the Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley/Illinois Valley Section for almost a decade.

Pittman's work with the Boys & Girls Club prompted that organization to name her as its 2006 Youth of the Year. She had been nominated for the accolade since 2004, but was pleased to receive that recognition.

"I was excited to find out I got it," Pittman said.

Pittman is in her third year of playing softball for the IVHS team, where she holds the centerfield position. The team's regular

season will kick off April 3, which will keep Pittman sufficiently occupied for the remainder of the school year.

After graduation, Pittman plans to attend Rogue Community College for two years, then transfer to Portland State University. She wants to focus her studies on business administration and education, with the hopes of owning a business or becoming a teacher.

But no matter which path she chooses, Pittman is determined to give it her all.

"If it's possible, I'll try my best and I'll do it," Pittman said. "I just do the best I can."

Roxi Holmes

Roxi Holmes has spent the last two years perfecting her photography skills. That dedication paid off last month, when one of her



works received second place at a regional competition.

Holmes, a senior, works as a home-care provider and enjoys her ceramics and economics classes at IVHS. She plans to attend Southern Oregon University at Ashland in the fall, and will pursue either a criminal justice or business degree.

Long-term, Holmes said she that would like to become a probation officer.

DeFazio backs security oversight

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) has voted to strengthen measures to prevent approval of foreign investments that would endanger national security.

The bill would put into place a thorough national security review process for

Former Principal Brown gets SMART with Evergreen Elementary students

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

Nancy Brown may have retired as principal of Evergreen Elementary School, but her dedication to its students has brought her back again to Cave Junction.

These days, Brown is volunteering with the school's Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) program. She will be coordinating fund-raisers for the program in the fall, and is happy to be doing so.

Earlier in her career, Brown taught fifth-grade at Evergreen. She then worked at the Three Rivers School District office, where she coordinated the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, then returned to Evergreen to work on its Title I program.

Brown spent the last two years as principal before her retirement. But she missed the students, parents and staff enough to take on her new role.

"It's a lot different than being principal," related Brown.

Evergreen's SMART program has expanded from 13 volunteers and 20 students served last year to 34 volunteers serving a total of 55 students. But as impressive as that is, Brown hopes to double the program for

now, and I know we can get 40 more," Brick said. "The only way we're going to do that is with Nancy's help."

Brick said that she is pleased that Brown has decided to devote her newfound spare time to the



Nancy Brown with third-grader Mary Anderson. (Photo by Scott Jorgensen/Illinois Valley News)

next year.

Tina Brick, who coordinates Evergreen's SMART program, said that Brown's involvement will be instrumental toward achieving that goal.

"We have 40 volunteers

school and its students.

"I'm absolutely thrilled. This is the best thing that could have happened," Brick said. "She's such a sweet person, plus, the kids love her."

B&G Club offers spring break activity

By **SCOTT THORNHILL**

Every day after school, kids from across our community have a safe place to go and grow – the Boys & Girls Club of Illinois Valley.

Known as "The Positive Place For Kids," the Club provides guidance-oriented character development programs daily for children 6- to 18-years-old, conducted by professional staff.

Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.

Monday, March 26 through Friday, March 30 has been designated as National Boys & Girls Club Week. Every year at this time, the nation celebrates our organization, which has steadily and methodically saved lives and changed futures of young people for more than 100 years.

Using a tried-and-true method of attracting kids with fun, wholesome activities, then involving them in a wide array of education, cultural and character-

building programs, clubs have helped millions of kids overcome barriers, dream of a brighter future and grow into responsible, productive citizens.

These kids include Illinois Valley's Jessica Pittman, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley's Youth of the Year. Jessica has said, "The best part of being involved with the club is getting the chance to make a difference in the life of another kid."

Studies show that the most dangerous time of the day for kids are the hours immediately after school, from 3 to 8 p.m. As a community, we're lucky to have the structured environment of our Boys & Girls Club to keep our children safe.

We're lucky to have

caring adults to lead the club and its members. Boys & Girls Club of the Illinois Valley is grateful for the support which makes it possible to fulfill our mission.

As part of the special week, the I.V. Club is offering a week of free membership to all valley youth. The week-long celebration coincides with the Three Rivers School District spring break, and the club will be open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. (See "Here, There & Everywhere on page 3).

For more information regarding the observance, spring flag football, spring volleyball or our after-school program contact 592-4771 for the office or 592-6151 for the club house.

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- Ralph Waldo Emerson -

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