

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

POLICY ON LETTERS:

'Illinois Valley News' encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

To the Editor:

Dan Mancuso suggests the City should refuse the help and ignore the input of people living outside the City limits as it develops its Parks Plan. Have we forgotten the dozens of Valley-wide residents who planned, raised funds, and built the playground at Jubilee Park? Are City residents excluded from helping care for the Forks State Park under the community Adopt-A-Park

Plan? Of course not!

Let's not dig divides that block collaboration and progress.

I hope all the people of the Illinois Valley will come enjoy our City parks, and also will roll up their sleeves to help plan, plant and paint our parks as well.

**Mary Orton
Cave Junction**

Dear Dan Mancuso,

Thank you for your support of the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce mission and its motto to bring "Unity in the Community".

Where is the Chamber? The main office is in the Illinois Valley Visitor Center. Its spirit is in the hearts and activities of its members. Our desire is to create mutually beneficial business opportunities in the Illinois Valley and provide services that allow local businesses to grow and prosper. As an organization we have made a commitment to partner with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, City of

Cave Junction, Oregon State Parks, and Illinois Valley Community Development Organization to operate the Illinois Valley Visitor Center.

In 2017 we had over 10,000 people visit our office, and so far in 2018 we have had close to 1,500. We have shared local business information with visitors and sent out close to 1,000 pieces of mail in 2018.

We recently did our local market research with a business survey and discovered that businesses love our small town and its people. We also found that businesses are experiencing growth, and our businesses are optimistic. According to the survey, top business concerns in the Illinois Valley were staffing scarcity, security, cash flow and access to capital.

We had a local business mixer in March at Illinois Valley Visitor Center. On May 18th from 5pm to 7pm we are sponsoring a joint mixer with our neighboring communities of Grants Pass, Rogue River, Crescent City and Brookings at the Chateau

at the Oregon Caves National Monument. We are trying to create opportunities for our members to network with each other and with other businesses in the region.

Our 2018 summer activities include seven weekly Concerts In The Park at Jubilee Park beginning Thursday, June 21st. We plan to kick-off the Holiday season with the Holiday Tree lighting on November 23rd and encourage folks to shop locally with special promotions on small business Saturday, November 24th.

The IV Chamber Board meets monthly on the third Wednesday at Wild River Brewing and they set project and fiscal priorities based on available resources. Increasing our Business membership continues to be a top priority. Anything you can do to help with recruitment would be greatly appreciated. Besides facilitating business communication, members receive preferred business placement on the Illinois Valley Community website, <https://illinoisvalleyweb.org/directory/categories/business/>

and an opportunity to display their materials at the Visitor Center and receive support from our office.

Current business resources include the Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center and a Small Business Micro Loan Program. We will be able to offer more services as membership increases. With more members and participation we can complete projects including the upgrade of the Illinois Valley Billboards. Estimated replacement costs were greater than available funds and we are currently seeking additional funding. We continually look for collaboration with other entities to accomplish our mission.

Please renew your membership and collaborate with us to help our valley prosper. Additional information available at <https://cavejunctionoregon.com/>

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
**Angie Graves,
Coordinator**

Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce

Reader responds with actual information

Great article on the 20th annual Children's Fair and Pet Parade. Just one clarification. The event was started by the members of the Illinois Valley Early Childhood Council which included representatives from the Siskiyou Community Health Center as well as representatives from Early Head Start, Head Start, Josephine County programs: Commission for Children and Families; Health; and Early Intervention; Three Rivers School District, and child care providers.

I am so pleased to see this event - just for the younger children and families - continue for 20 consecutive years.

Thanks again for the great article.

**Sara McDonald
Takilma**

Celebrating the Life of:

Douglas Wayne Cortrecht

January 15, 1948 – April 28, 2018

Douglas transitioned in the comfort of his home surrounded by his wife, son and daughter and close friends on Saturday April 28.

Douglas Wayne Cortrecht was born in Anderson, Indiana on January 15, 1948 to Harvey and Janet. He grew up in rural Anderson and cultivated a taste for taking things apart and seeing how they worked while he spent time at his dad's Shell station. He was a drummer in the Highland High School marching band and worked for General Motors/Delco Remy in Anderson for almost a decade, quitting just shy of his investment in their retirement program!

In 1976 Douglas and his partner, to be spouse, Elaine Barker crossed the country in the 1965 Chevy van he customized to arrive in Oregon. His vision was to build his own home and Oregon had the trees for the project. In the meantime they lived off the grid for 13 years in the mountains above Holland Store at Mtn. Ranch allowing Doug to hone his skills until they found their home site down in the Valley.

When Doug set out to build, he literally did it all: designing the structure and it's

details, hauling the trees out of the forest to make shakes for the roof, digging the hole for the septic tank with his tractor, designing and building everything from the cabinets to the windows himself...

Doug's ethic of craftsmanship extended into many forms and media: wood, blacksmithing, ceramics, plumbing, etc. as well as mechanical and electrical devices. He was a master of many things and was able to build beauty into every project, large or small, anything he set his mind to. He cared about how things worked, how things were best done and had the skill and the patience to execute the tasks to his standard. He could fix anything. He was inventive and accompanied these skills with his own notable humor that fit with his style.

Doug was a lot of things to a lot of people. Evidence of his creativity, spirit and problem solving can be seen throughout the Illinois Valley as well as back in Indiana. He found time to be a volunteer fireman at station 4 for many years and also worked some seasons at the California Agricultural Inspection Station. He was a member of the State of Jefferson Blacksmiths which afforded a number of interesting adventures. He was very involved in the lives of his children, Ian Barker-Cortrecht

and Thea Barker-Cortrecht. He was a stay at home dad while they were young. He coached pee-wee soccer, T ball and coach pitch. He contributed greatly to projects at the Dome School and cared for his mother Janet Cortrecht who also lived in Cave Junction for several years.

Douglas is survived by his spouse, Elaine Barker, his children, Ian and Thea, his sister Karon Cortrecht Kardatzke and 2 neices and 1 nephew and their children. He was preceded in death by his mother, Janet and his father, Harvey.

Doug will be sorely missed. A celebration of his life is being planned for later in the summer.

Contributions can be made for the purchase of a boulder with a memorial marker to be placed at his home.

On Doug's and his family's behalf we would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation for all the vast goodness and generosity that was showered on all of us during Doug's illness.

View Doug's full obituary and leave messages at Hull & Hull Funeral Home website: www.since1928hull.com



Douglas Wayne Cortrecht

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date

May 20

Happy Birthday Gabrielle V. Mancuso!

May 26

The Butterfly Pavilion at Rusk Nature Center will open Memorial Weekend, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. New interactive exhibits and additions to the the children's natural playground, bring a picnic lunch and enjoy! Hours: Tues. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

June 2

Rotary Club of I.V. Clean Up CJ, Saturday, June 2 from 8:45 a.m. - 11 a.m. meet at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., CJ

Saturday, June 2, 2018: IV Senior Center is holding its Annual Flea Market! 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For only \$10 you get a 20' x 20' space to sell those old treasures you've had hidden away. Come by to sign up at 520 E. River Street or call Rich at 541-592-6888. We are also having our Country Breakfast so we should have a great crowd. Lunch will also be sold starting at noon and we'll have a

bake sale. Good time for all!

June 7

IVHS Class of 2018 Graduation 7 p.m. on the football field weather permitting.

June 23

IVHS Family Fun Festival & Chili cook-off Hosted by: IVHS girls' basketball, Saturday, June 23. The cost of each entry is \$15. There are prizes for first and second place winners. There will be a prize for the most creative chili. The cost to taste is \$5. The fun festival begins at noon at IVHS with the cook off to follow at 2 p.m. Tickets for the games/activities are \$1 per ticket. Each activity will require a minimum of 1 ticket. We will have face painting, ring toss, basketball shooting, dunk tank and much more.

Continuing

*Evergreen Elementary school is looking for SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) volunteers. The program will run Tuesdays through Thursdays and volunteers are asked to come to Evergreen around 11:30 a.m. and

will be out at 12:45 p.m. To learn more about the SMART program you can call 541-734-5628 or visit the website at www.getSMART-oregon.org.

*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store: Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citizen to volunteer at the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Illinois Valley Democrats meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. in Cave Junction. Join with like-minded people for camaraderie and to plan actions in support of the Democratic agenda. Call Anita 541-592-3073 to confirm meeting days. Check us out on FB!

*Public Health Clinic- Location: I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., CJ, 1st Thursday of every month. Services offered STI Testing/Treatment, Women's Health Exams (Annuals/Problem Visits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing,

Pre-pregnancy counseling. 3rd Thursday of every month: STI testing/treatment, birth control counseling (methods limited), Pregnancy Testing, Immunizations. Call 541-474-5329 for an appointment, and make sure to tell the receptionist to schedule you in CJ. Walk-ins welcome! Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*The Sheriff's Office Substation in Cave Junction is now open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 2. Volunteers are still needed to staff additional days. Applications are available at the substation or online at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer>. For information call 541-474-5123.

*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively addressing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665 or visit cjp patrol.org.

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