

Viewpoints

Letters to the editor

'Greetings from Missouri'

I wanted to take this time to tell you some things about a man who was known to most all of you. He was one of your Rotary club members – Chet Dacayana.

Chet was loved by many, including myself. Many of you know that Chet and his late wife, Jan, moved to Port Orford in the mid-1990's from Southern California, their native land. Chet and Jan were examples to everyone around them. They were one of the most active couples, and families, I have ever known. Besides Chet's 50-year career in sports officiating, he and his family were active for over 32 years in the Ventura County fair in Ventura, California.

Chet retired from the Ventura Unified School District in 1992 as District Operations Manager with 35 years' service. He was also active during his lifetime in 4-H and FFA, judging these and other areas of the fair. Chet and his family had so many more

accomplishments that are too much to note for a short letter to you.

All these accomplishments do not compare to the one accomplishment that Chet would surely play down had it been pointed out to him – Foster Parent.

Chet and Jan spent over 30 years in the foster parent program in Ventura County and fostered well over 100 needy, and desperate, children in that time. They did this while raising their own five children three of which were given a permanent life with the Dacayana family. I know these things because I was lucky to have been placed with the Dacayana family in June of 1979 as a foster child. I stayed with them for just over eight months.

Chet and Jan, even with the children they already had, wanted to adopt me as their son. Yet, it wasn't to be. The State of California had other plans for me and I moved on. The State was worried that, should Chet and Jan continue to adopt the

Send your letters, thanks, cheers and jeers to portorfordnews@gmail.com.

All letters must have a name, address and phone number for contact questions. Please keep your comments and arguments empirical - and please show respect for the opinions of others in this, your open forum. Thank you.

— Matt Hall, Editor, Port Orford News

children they were fostering, eventually they wouldn't want to foster children anymore and a good, and much-needed, family would leave the foster care system.

Yet, Chet and Jan's capacity for caring was unlimited in their lifetime. Even though I moved on in my life – albeit to much worse situations – I always remembered Chet and Jan for their compassion and love they showed a 9-10-year-old boy all those years ago. Their examples have stayed with me and I have become a successful adult in large part due to these two people.

In July, 2001, I had the great fortune to be invited to Chet and Jan's 50th wedding anniversary in Port Orford. My wife and two children accompanied me for a trip that will go down as one of the best of my life for it was the first time in over 20 years that I had seen the entire Dacayana family in person. As we know, Jan passed away in early 2004 after a lifetime of giving. Chet went on without her and continued to give – He, apparently, didn't know any better.

In the end, Chet made the world a better place for many – including me. He and his fami-

ly have been a source of encouragement to a boy of long ago and also to the man of today. I try to live by Chet's example as I raise my own children remembering the ways a real "father" treats, not only his children, but also his wife and his friends. Chet was that "real" person in all things. I will miss him greatly for I have lost a father figure. I am blessed to have crossed paths with such a good soul. I am also blessed to have seen him one last time, this past May, as I spent the night at his home once again.

Mr. Chet Dacayana was a Father, Husband, Friend, and Example to humanity. He will be missed. His family is in my prayers.

Regards,

Mike Hayslip
City Administrator
Odessa, Missouri

'Two wonderful people ...'

Recently, Port Orford lost two wonderful people that I cared a lot about, Bonnie Allen and Chet Dacayana. Although I did-

n't see them often, I hope that I was able to show my love, while they were still with us.

Nella Abbott
Port Orford

'The trick is to deliver ...'

Port Orford! What we need is marketing. Any one can write glowingly descriptive copy glamorizing our town. The trick here is to deliver.

Remember, we are a "way-stop", not a "destination", so the travelers are moving on through and there must be more than the urinals at Battle Rock Park to grab their attention. If they make it to the city limit they are "gone forever" for this trip.

Marketing! Let's "sell what we got." First, why don't we slow them down a bit? Let's reduce this four lane passing zone called "Port Orford" to one lane in each direction, a center left turn lane, a bicycle lane, and parallel parking along both curbs. Drivers can turn left safely without the danger of being

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Confessions of a dying woman ... by Ruth Jamieson

I must confess that I am feeling very guilty for the sadness I have caused anyone by the public announcement of my impending demise. Of course some of the discomfort is caused by an accumulation of grief from previous losses of



Ruth Jamieson

family and friends. My own mother died of cancer when she was 45 and I was 25. I had two baby girls at the time and I felt angry with her for leaving us. I know that doesn't make sense, and even though I knew that, it didn't make those feelings go away. But now, while the world around me seems to be grieving, I am enjoying life more than ever. The walks on the beach are more exhilarating, the children's hugs are warmer, every small comfort is magnified by a higher sensory component.

Sharing my feelings and expe-

riences with the local public has become an enjoyable adventure also. I have received cards, letters and phone calls from old and new friends. Opening up to others has rewarded me with real connections to people I have only previously known on a surface level.

Meanwhile, the break in the rain today allowed me to take the 3.5 mile walk on Battle Rock Beach, in the sun, sweating like a pig, and then top it off with a truly whole grain vegan burrito at the local burrito shop. I think this might be "as good as it gets" ... and that's ok with me.

To be continued ... by Pastor Doug Jamieson

For the past thirty years I have been directly involved with young people and their families. I started as a youth leader in Harbor, Oregon, and then youth pastor for six and a half years in Albany, before moving to Port Orford in 1989.



Doug Jamieson

One of the most common questions parents and young people have asked me through the years is: Do you have anything for the kids?

I have found that the answer is the same for youth as well as adults. People need relationship. When I was growing up, one of my greatest desires was to have a friend to run around with.

Some of my early friends were my cousins, and when they moved away, I was left looking for another friend. Young people, when asked to go on a youth retreat, every time, have the same question: Who else is going? If their friends aren't going, chances are they won't either.

Friends are (in my estimation), a requirement. It is true that we need to be friendly to everyone as much as possible, but it is also important to have close friends. Plural is a good idea. Things can become overbearing if you only have one true friend. Then we have to accept the responsibility of friendship.

Ruth and I became best friends when we were seventeen. You can imagine when the Doctor came in and announced that my best friend, in the eyes of practical medicine, has not long to live. How am I supposed to digest those words?

My answer is simple. I will

enjoy every day that I have with my best friend, and I pray that they are many.

We all need close friends, and

the best way to have a friend is to be one.

To be cont'd ...

Pets of the Week at the Curry County Animal Shelter 'Kojo & Chester'



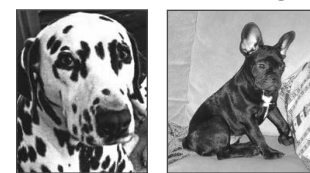
The Curry County Shelter would like to express its gratitude for all the support the community has done to help our shelter to maintain a humane sanctuary for our furry friends in this past year. Please continue to support us as our residents appreciate all you can do. Thanks for all your support. Chester is about 7 years old and acts like he is much older. Chester doesn't want to be bothered by much. He would be happy just being in a cozy bed and watching the day go by. Being an older dog he would fit in with an older couple or single person. A very nice dog who deserves a good home.

Kojo is 7 years old and is looking for an owner who will give him a lot of love and a very comfortable place in their home. He is friendly and would like nothing more than to be by your side. He enjoys any attention he is given. He gets along with our other furry friends in the shelter but could have issues with cats. Kojo is just the right age where he would fit in with a family. Of course a walk or a throw of the ball would just make his day.

PLEASE LICENSE YOUR DOG! IT HELPS YOU AND YOUR DOG SHOULD IT BECOME LOST AND THE FUNDS HELPS THE SHELTER!

Pet of the Week NEEDS SPONSORS! Anyone who would like to help sponsor Pet of the Week please call Matt Hall at (541) 260-3638. For adoption info call (541) 247-2514

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North Curry County Church Directory

St. Christopher Episcopal Church
Sunday Holy Eucharist
10 a.m.
417 Ninth St.
(Behind Fun Zone)
(541)332-0998

Port Orford Christian Center
Come celebrate the Lord with Pastor Doug Jamieson.
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning11 a.m.
Sunday Evening.....5 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
10th & Washington
(541)332-2561

St. John's Catholic Church
Sunday8:30 a.m.
Wed.9 a.m.
Hwy. 101 & 15th St.
Port Orford, OR
(541)253-6250

First Community Church
2025 Jackson St.
(541) 332-3664
Worship Service
11 a.m.
Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church
Bible Study at 10 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m.
"God's work, our hands ..."
Pastor Tim Carraher
2015 Washington (541)260-1309

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Port Orford Branch
20th & Jackson
332-5501

Langlois Community Church
"Where the Word of God is Proclaimed"
Pastor Rick House ♦ Youth Pastor Kyle Busenitz
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. ♦ Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m.
♦ Wed. Bible Study - 7 p.m. ♦ Nursery provided
Hwy. 101 in Langlois ♦ (541) 348-2301

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* Pasta?
* Steaks?
* Fresh Fish?

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