

A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

A professional basketball player was being interviewed on A.M radio as I cruised home early one evening last week. He told of his ex-wife keeping his two young sons from him, and that he had just won a year-long custody battle. As the segment wound down, he advised we should treasure every moment we have with our kids, that it goes by fast.

It was Father's Day weekend and as I listened to him talk about the struggles he had been through, the importance of his own father in his life, and the kind of parent he was trying to be, I was surprised there was no mention of his team's upcoming trip to the NBA finals. It seemed he was able to separate being a basketball superstar from who he is the rest of the time: a dad, getting breakfast in the morning and switching the lights off at bedtime.

It made me think of my own son, how when he

was born, when he was 2, 4,10,12, 16, him waking up and falling asleep down the hall, seemed like it would go on forever, the rhythm of it so natural, there was no way it could change.

I shifted in the seat, sensed my heart pounding a little, wondered if it was the mocha I has just finished. It was a quiet beat, like the second hand on a clock, ticking round and round; a reminder that things keep moving.

The basketball player talked on as I sped home from work, and I pondered his advice to treasure every moment. As I steered over the route that runs parallel to the town of Rogue River, a line of Cottonwood trees that shield the waterway from the Interstate were letting loose in the wind. Large fluffs of white drifted and swirled before the windshield, and blew all over the landscape. I thought of the nights driving this same stretch, in winter storms, with the streetlamps and headlights capturing

snapshots of falling snow.

Out my window though, it was vast and blowing, lit by sun, and set against a background of blue sky, and tan hills, trees climbing toward their crest. It was more than the description from "Trees to Know in Oregon" of, "... cottony fruits that fill the air and water around them, in early spring..." and much more than "...unsightly cotton showered all over the place..." put forth to describe this particular tree's springtime ritual.

The sentiments of the ballplayer resonated as I drove through the cottonwood blizzard. It seemed clear how precious some moments are, how one persons mess is another one's magic. I thought of my son, of living life with heart, even if the beat turns a little intense sometimes.

Summer is here, and long, warm days stretch ahead. Be ready for the moments that aren't planned.

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)

Dear Editor

I understand yet struggle

with the Josephine County Assessor's recent purchase of \$600,000 software, but a \$60,000 annual maintenance fee seems incredible. Hopefully they are getting full-time tech people for that cost! My hope is that the new software can bundle all future tax bills, as assessment revisions about 8 or so years ago created supplemental parcel numbers and multiple bills for most property owners. I have received 2 property tax bills (2 pages each) since then with double envelopes, inserts and postage! Good software or a

decent programming fix can make sure those bills get enclosed in one envelope. Up to six sheets of 20 lb. paper can be mailed in standard, letter sized envelopes and not exceed 1 ounce. Using inserts and envelopes printed on lighter weight paper coupled with zip code sorting tax bills before printing, enclosing and affixing postage, brings even more savings. IBM assisted Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company's programmers in doing that back in the late 1970s. I worked at Ma Bell's southern California hub for decades

and we mailed almost 200,000 customer bills daily. If we could do it then, the Assessor's new software certainly ought to be able to do it now. If not, the Assessor's office should call their tech people and demand the enhancement before the property tax bills are created for 2013.

**Marilyn Arnold
O'Brien,**

Letter to the editor:

A wonderful young artist presented his art at the Cave Junction branch of the J.C

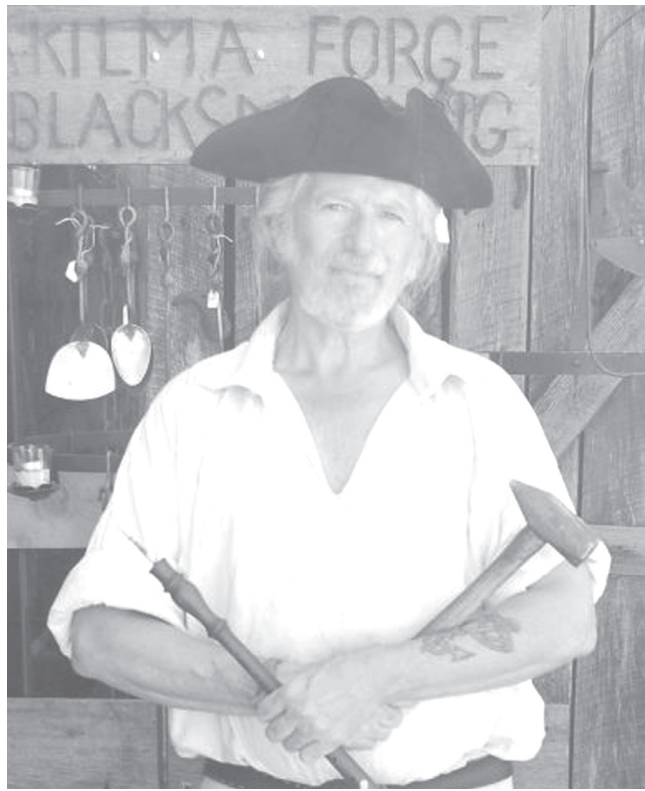
library at the June 14 ArtWalk, along with several other artisans, and none were mentioned in the article. River Zion, a talented youth, deserves to be recognized for his talent, spirit and willingness as a young artist and entrepreneur.

Would have made more sense than free advertising for the Red Gutter, oh excuse me, Garter.

After all, isn't that what fund raising for IRVAC's art in the schools is hoping to promote?

**Dee Qualls
Cave Junction**

Obituaries



Jim Rich passed away peacefully at home late Sunday night June 23 at age 68. He was beloved by many friends and relatives. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri, Feb. 11, 1945. He earned a music degree from Northwestern University in Chicago, became a classical music recording executive, learned black-smithing in 1972 and moved to Takilma, Oregon in 1973. He helped found Baroque musical groups in Oregon while continuing his blacksmith work. He learned to sail tall ships, earned a Master's certificate, and loved to sail and work on wooden ships. An informal remembrance is planned for Friday, June 28 at the Takilma Forge, 9345 Takilma Rd. around 3:00 p.m. A second one is planned for Sunday at Newmann Methodist Church in Grants Pass.

Delbert Lee Brummett, 72 of Cave Junction died June 4, 2013 at Three Rivers Hospital in Grants Pass Ore. after a brief bout with pneumonia. He died with both his daughters at his side.

A memorial will be held on Saturday June 22, 2013 at 12 p.m. at Lawncrest Chapel in Redding Calif., with grave side services to follow at Cottonwood Cemetery. Brummett was born March 27, 1941 in Delphi Ind. to Russell Richard Brummett and Lena Mac (England) Brummett. He was the eldest of five children and attended 12 different schools during his childhood as his father moved the family often in pursuit of better work opportunities. While still in high school he married Karen Lenore

Thomas and together they had three children.

Brummett was a journeyman ironworker local 118 by trade and was very proud of the high rise steel construction that he was able to leave his thumbprint on. He loved his work and his brother in the union. He also had a life long love of motorcycles. During his 30s he participated in motocross racing and won numerous trophies and awards. His is survived by his daughters Robin Paulson (Tony) and Lona Gutierrez (Greg). His son Russell Brummett. His sisters Evelyn, Joyce and Nancy. Also his brother Doug Brummett. He was a grandfather to 13 and a great grandfather to 4. He was preceded in death by his parents.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

Save the date: Reunion Mania

Reunion '13

July 5

The Class of 1993, 7 p.m. at Wild River from Menu. Info: Kristen David, 503-650-6700 or kristen@teleport.com.

The Class of 1988, 6 p.m. at Scott & Alicia's House (No Kiddies) Info: Brian Proett 541-914-0560 or brianproett@hotmail.com

The Class of 1973, 6 p.m. at Perfect Pizza. Info: Janie Soell Pope 541-592-3884 or popej77@frontier.com

The Class of 1978, 4 p.m., Family Picnic at Rough & Ready Park – Toting. Info: Debbie Day Mitchell 541-660-7878 or debbiemit@msn.com.

The Class of 1963, 5:30 p.m. at Lynn & Lary's House Info Lynn Riggan Smith, 541-597-4196 or llsmith@cavenet.com

or Cathy Campell Pullen 541-592-2512 or mapullen@frontiernet.net.

The Class of 1958, Dinner at 6 p.m. at My Place Café with at Special Menu upstairs. Info: Jean Knight Hull 541-779-8579 or jrhill@charter.net

July 6

Illinois Valley Golf Club at 10 a.m., 4 person scramble, \$50 per player, Info: Coach Ray Yarbrough, 541-787-0191 or IV Golf Club, 541-592-3151.

Kerbyville Museum Guided Tour, 2 p.m., \$2, The place to drop off your donated auction items and take a pre-auction look at the Gift Baskets and other Silent Auction bargains.

The Class of 1993, 7 p.m. at McGrew's, Dancing to Silas Wolf - \$3 cover. Info: Kristen David, 503-650-6700 or kristen@teleport.com.

The Class of 1988, Saturday July 6 at 1 p.m. Kid Friendly Pig Roast, Scott & Alicia's House. Info: Brian Proett, 541-914-0560 or brianproett@hotmail.com.

The Class of 1983, Saturday, July 6 – 6 p.m. at Carlos Restaurante – Buffett - \$15. Info: Lisa Harman Talton at 714-796-2384 or ltalton@freedom.com.

The Class of 1973, 2 p.m. at Jann's House, Catered by Phil Aria - \$20 per person. Info: Janie Sowell Pope at 541-592-3884 or popej77@frontier.com.

The Class of 1978, 6 p.m. at Taylor's Country Store – From Menu. Info: Debbie Day Mitchell 541-660-7878 or debbiemit@msn.com.

The Class of 1958, Dinner at 6 p.m. at My Place Café with at Special Menu upstairs. Info: Jean Knight Hull 541-779-8579 or jrhill@charter.net.

The Class of 1953, Noon – Visit!

Hug! 3:30 p.m. Fire Up BBQ – Donate! Tote! Pat's House. Info: Pat Spalinger Hamme, 541-592-6351.

Reunionless Alumni - Enjoy dinner from Judy's Special Menu at My Place Café, 5:30 'ish, Need head count. RSVP to Chris 619-295-1752, 619-895-0392 or cleppert@cox.net or find her at the Museum!

July 7

Breakfast at Jubilee Park Pavilion from The Illinois Valley Fire Department, 8 a.m. – Noon, \$6, (\$4 for Kids,) Silent Auction during breakfast, 19th Annual Meeting follows breakfast. (Welcome Class of 1948!)

Sunday afternoon, Fund-raiser \$5 Ice Cream and music at the Kerbyville Museum on your way out of town.

Wanted: Office space 200-400 Sq ft. Business: IV Trophy & Collectibles Call Cary @ 541.450.2184

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