

A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

Another child, the second, from my son's high school class has been lost, and though they are all twenty-six now, that is how I still think of them, as children.

I may not have recognized him in the aisles of Shop Smart, or in line at the coffee stand, as the same boy in the scaled down outfit of flannel shirt and jeans, trotting the concrete corridors of Evergreen Elementary, backpack bouncing. Another from this class, gone for a couple years, was the first, at age five, to be invited over by our son, the first to climb a tree with him.

It has long been second nature to know that these kids, whether they have spent time in our homes or not, belong to us all, that their victories are our victories, that to lose one, tears at our hearts. I remember this boy as quiet, nice, a good student, with thick, dark hair and a sweet face.

I sometimes see another from my son's class, where I work. We pass in the halls in blue scrubs, and he never fails to stop and say hello. Years ago, following a birthday party, my ten year old came limping from

his front door, the mother following to explain, "It must have happened when he karate-kicked the couch." When I see him next, I will tell him I am sorry about the loss of their friend. I will try not to hug him, for though I've known him long, I don't know him well. I will try not to tell him I am proud of him, that he has done well, as if he were my own.

The faces of the 100 children my son grew up with remain accessible, their tentative steps through grade school, the growing pains of Lorna Byrne, and the

red caps, gowns, and dark sunglasses of high school graduation. We became connected, watching them grow up; invested, before ever realizing it.

At 3:30 a.m. recently, I woke abruptly, eyes flying open, as if a gust of wind had swept through, from head to toe. The instinct to call and make sure my child was okay had to be suppressed. Leaning into the deck railing, wide awake, I peered into the darkness, gazing at a glowing crescent suspended in black, a bright star, glittering, just above. The cradle of the moon, luminous

but solid, lay waiting, should that star happen to fall. A few hours later, in a text, my son was urged, "Don't be in such a hurry all the time..." and the response from the city came, "I am always careful..."

I think of the young men from my son's class, and the bond between parent and child. Like stars in the night, it is constant and endless, a thread that holds a community together, and defines its shape. It is dependent only on love. It is something to hold onto, when a storm blows through.

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.)

Pot smoker says vote no

As a daily pot smoker, I will vote against Measure 91. It allows only 1/2 pound of dried marijuana per household, barely enough for one user who smokes only in the evenings. This will allow police to oppress the poor, who often have to live several adult consumers to a household. It likewise

allows one to give away only one ounce per recipient, restricting sharing between households.

The tax is too high at \$35 per ounce, and can be raised at any time by the OLCC, which will have a conflict of interest in regulating a product that directly competes with liquor, which it sells in its own stores.

The regulations are too tight. Failure to file a monthly sales report would mean that the state would file for one and demand the tax they think one should pay. Penalties for other violations are draconian, including forfeiture of all property in any way connected with a marijuana business, up to and including one's home.

It also allows unlimited licenses to "persons" all along the chain of production, processing, and sales, allowing out-of-state corporations to take over our commercial pot business, because such regulations are easier for big corporations to comply with.

This is written to bribe and mollify those who dis-

like pot. We who like it should wait for a better offer. We can make and possess up to 200 gallons of alcohol without a license. Allowances for home growing and gifts of pot should be similarly generous.

**Rycke Brown,
Grants Pass**

Reader says no to mine

I'm responding to the proposed nickel mines near Baldface Creek and Rough & Ready Creeks. My feeling is that these areas which I have visited are too precious to be damaged by nickel mining. No amount of jobs or profits should persuade decision-makers into undertaking this mining. Degradation of water quality and the pristine natural beauty of these areas are not worth it.

**Dave Maize
Cave Junction**

Reader wants safe watershed

Until the 1872 Mining

Law can be amended or revoked to better represent our growing awareness of environmental threats, it is imperative that we protect what few unpolluted water sources that remain. Baldface Creek and Rough and Ready watersheds are precious and pristine. We have the power to keep them so. No mining!

**Kaci Elder
O'Brien**

Reader wants you to be informed

I wanted to thank Joel Moore for his letter to the editor on Measure 17-63 regarding the forum held at the Grants Pass High School, which I attended. A number of people have shared their concerns pro and con with me on these measures slated for the November Ballot.

Marijuana grows and pesticides also have had their overlap, as topics, with Neighborhood Watch Groups in my area. Especially large commercial type grows that use poisons

to repel varmints, and other uses of toxic chemicals. Two dead deer, one died in a pond, sick cats, dead raccoons and turkeys and other birds at rural residential properties near large Grow sites have occurred. This is in addition to the late night activities, shooting, thievery, vandalism and antics that come with the territory. With that said and to support many of you interested in, or your concerns with these and other topics, I am rallying to get support for Local Forums and Town Halls. Let's just forget that government will ever come to the rescue (but that doesn't mean we're not going to hold them accountable).

On Monday, October 20, from 4 to 9 p.m. we will be hosting two meetings, back to back, at the county building. The first will be a Neighborhood Watch Meeting, starting at 4 p.m. - with reports, watch networking and discussion. A potluck will be at 5:30 p.m., and following at 6 p.m. will be a short introductory film on geoenvironment (weather

modification programs) occurring off the pacific coast and how these activities relate to drought. Then at 6:30 p.m. we will hold a Town Hall with the primary topic being Measure 17-63 (pesticide ban), inviting presentations pro and con, with debate, if possible, and ample citizen participation. The Timber and Chemical industry, ODF, Josephine County public works, and ODOT will be invited. With time permitting and meeting approval we will try to cover other measures like 91 and 92. Candidates are welcome but will not get special time for presentations, but can speak on the topic as any citizen.

For more information call Guenter at 541-592-4124 or email cmec@cavenet.com.

I hope you all catch the Candidates Forum on Thursday at the county building.

**Guenter Ambrose
Cave Junction**

Obituaries

Jonnie Mae Crutchfield, age 81, of Selma, died Thursday, October 9, 2014 at Three Rivers Medical Center.

A celebration of life and potluck will be at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 25, 2014 at Deer Creek Grange (3750 Lakeshore Drive, Selma). Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

Please sign the family guest book at

www.since1928hull.com.

Jonnie was born September 17, 1933 in Steel, Missouri to Marvin & Lassie Fuller. On June 20, 1951 in Lovelock, Nev. she married Everett G. Crutchfield. She moved from Stockton, Calif. to Selma in 1987.

Jonnie loved her family and her family always came first. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, great-grand-

mother, and great-great-grandmother.

She loved playing cards, bingo and bunco. All her card buddies were her best friends. She also loved going to the casinos and having lunch.

Survivors include her husband, Everett Crutchfield; three children, Carl Crutchfield and wife Diane, Harold Crutchfield and wife Kathy, Debi Doyle and husband Chip;

daughter-in-law, Kristi Crutchfield-Webb; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a great-great-granddaughter; and a sister, Grace VanWinkle.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin & Lassie Fuller; her son, Joe Crutchfield; and her sisters, Inez, Hazel, Dot, Barbara and Betty.

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

Save The Date

Oct. 15

IVHS Girls Varsity Soccer Game, Away vs. Cascade Christian High School at 4 p.m.

Oct. 15

FREE Health Talk: All-Care Health Plan, a local Coordinated Care Organization, invites you to a talk about Health and Wellness. Learn about Free Health and Wellness programs for AllCare members, Tobacco Cessation, and 10 steps towards improving your health. 6:30 p.m. at Healthy U. 535 E. River St., Cave Junction. Call 541-592-4888 with questions.

Oct. 16

The Illinois Valley News and the Illinois Valley Chamber will host a candidate forum on Thursday the 16th. Starting at 5:30 p.m. City Council. 6 p.m. Sheriff and from 7 p.m. County Commissioners. The event

will be held at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction.

Oct. 16

IVHS Boys JV Soccer Game, St. Mary's at IVHS at 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 16

IVHS Girls Varsity Volleyball, Away vs. St. Mary's High School at 6:15 p.m.

Oct. 17

IVHS JV Football Game, Cascade Christian High School at 4 p.m.

Oct. 17

IVHS Varsity Football Game, Cascade Christian High School at 7 p.m.

Oct. 17

Please join us at the IV Garden Club's meeting on Friday, October 17. Our speaker will be long time,

Valley gardener Frank Cordeiro. Frank is passionate about gardening and specializes in growing uncommon and unusual plants. Frank will lead a group discussion on preparing the garden and our tools for winter. The IV Garden Club meets the 3rd Friday of the month at United Methodist Church, 200 W. Watkins (across from Shop Smart) in Cave Junction. Social and finger foods at 12:30 p.m. Meeting at 1 p.m. Visitors welcome. For information call 541-592-6037.

Oct. 20

Monday, 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. a Town Hall Meeting/Potluck will be hosted at the County Building in Cave Junction. Topics: Neighborhood Watch, Drought, County Measures 17-62 (Library) and 17-63 (Pesticide Ban), State Measures 91(pot) and 92 (GMO). Candidates are welcome to

Join. email cmec@cavenet.com for agenda / inclusions.

Oct. 25

Illinois Valley Garden Club Fall Plant Sale & Country Store. Saturday, October 25, 2014, County Building, 9:00 a.m. until Sold Out. Last chance to add a variety of veggie, floral and other plants to your winter gardens or green houses for next year. Proceeds benefit IV High School Scholarship Program.

Oct. 25

7th Annual Acorn Festival on Sat., Oct. 25 at Selma Community Center, 18255 Redwood Hwy., Selma, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., workshops on processing acorns, cooking with Lena Hurt, fun and educational activities for kids, Scarecrow Contest: free entry with \$100 prize.. Around-the-world potluck

at 5 p.m, hosted by the Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network. For more information contact Suzanne Vautier at 541-291-8860.

*Scarecrow Contest on Oct. 25 at the Selma Community Center, 18255 Redwood Hwy., Selma, during the Acorn Festival, free entry, scarecrows should be "life-sized", entries must be completed and signed in the Selma Center by 11 a.m. on Oct. 25, the public can vote on their favorite scarecrows until 4 p.m., winner to be announced at 4:30 p.m., \$100 prize. For more information call Suzanne Vautier at 541-291-8860.

Oct. 28

Rogue Community College, in partnership with College Dreams, are excited to announce the 7th annual "College Night in Oregon" (CNO) events on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. CNO presents a unique opportunity

for us as educators to promote post-high school attendance at any college, to Rogue Valley High School seniors and juniors. Attendees will learn much needed information about admissions, financial aid, and scholarships to assist them (and their parents) in making that all-important transition to higher education.

Nov. 7 & 8

Illinois Valley Senior Center Christmas Bazaar 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; set-up on the Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. - ? Few tables still available for \$20, size 3'x8', first come, first served, reserve soon, Call Rich at 541-592-6888, come in to sign-up, 520 E. River St.

Ongoing

Cub Scouting, Pack 880, Grades 1-5, Call Larry Hammersmith, 541-592-3919 or George Nadow, 541-592-6771

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