

## A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

Riding along the highway a few days ago, my bike began making a sound like a playing card was caught in the spokes. Shifting gears produced grinding metal, and the back wheel seized up, rubber skidding over loose gravel, as if the brakes had been slammed on. A hunk of steel protruded from the chain, its angle reminiscent of a broken bone breaking through skin, painful to look at. Being only a half mile from home, the walk back was brief. Friday at 4:00 I strapped my bike to the back of the car, and drove it to the Cave Junction Farmers Market.

All spring and summer a booth called BikeSpace stood manned and ready for assessment, maintenance and repairs, a metal can set on a table for donations. A couple bikes were already in the works, one suspended on a metal rack, as I dragged mine up. Giving a quick perusal, the proprietor offered, "Looks like your derailleur is toast. I have never seen one bent like that." Having no idea what a derailleur was, or that it was spelled "derailleur" as if it were French, I asked, "Is that bad?" He knelt down and

looked closer, lifted the drooping chain. "I don't have the part, but if you bring it in next Friday I will put it on for you."

I am no bike aficionado, the extent of knowledge of my own set of wheels, limited to the name slashed in paint across the bar, beneath the seat. It is the only bike I have ever bought, the other, a gift from Santa at fourteen. It was green, and had three gears, for uphill, downhill, and flat.

Aside from the seat and handlebars, bicycles of today remain a mystery. My current ride has seven gears that somehow equal twenty one. It is not a road bike or a comfort bike or a touring bike or mountain bike, but a hybrid. The wheels are neither thin nor wide. Most importantly, it has a large seat, and handlebars that don't require stretching parallel to the road, to reach.

The questions asked when shopping for it a few years ago were unexpected. They wanted to know how I planned to use the bike, as they eyed me, assessing my condition. "Just to ride?" I asked, suddenly uncertain. Would it be around town, on a sidewalk, on a road, or a dirt trail? Was

I training for something, or would it be for casual use? How many gears did I want? How much did I want my bike to weigh? How often did I think I would use it? My legs were measured for the proper frame size. It was like being tailored for a suit.

Four years later at the same shop, the retail area opened to a large space where three men worked on three bikes. I stood at the counter for a few minutes before one laid down his tool, and came out. I told him what I needed and he grabbed a box from a hook on the wall. "Is this comparable to the one I am replacing?" I tried to confirm. He supplied, "I have actually purged the shelves of that model, this is one for a four or five hundred dollar bike" and I wondered if having not spent that much, it would still work. At the register he asked, "Will you be installing this?" I offered, "No, I have a bike guy." Looking across the glass display case he quizzed, "Does he have a chain tool?" I admitted, "I don't know, but being a bike guy, I assume he does." Folding the top of the paper bag down, he handed it over, predicting, "See you next week."

Driving home I considered his haughty attitude, and wondered if it had been ushered in around the same time dozens of gears and a special wardrobe became required to operate a metal frame on two wheels, powered by one's own feet.

The guy at the farmers market did a beautiful job fixing my bike, and I don't know if he had a chain tool. He explained how the injury had probably transpired, and that maintenance and tune ups could keep it from happening again. He told me he rode his bike every day, all over the Valley, and up and down Hwy 199.

As he spun the wheel slowly, and assured it would work fine now, he was as engaged as the chain and derailleur he had just set right. I wasn't an older, slightly out of shape woman, talking to him about cycling, an imposter trying to break into an elite club. I was seventeen, pedaling along sidewalks, navigating alleys, and flying down hills. I was someone who just wanted to ride.

## Letters to the Editor

*Illinois Valley News* welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please e-mail them to [dan@illinois-valley-news.com](mailto: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.

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

### Reader questions writer

I figure Robert Hirning (IVN Nov. 26, '14) wasn't around when the government got involved in a big way in the medical field. Medicare, like Obama care (ACA), was created to gain votes. The added feature of people control of Obama care is new.

Anyone that really believes government bureaucrats care about your health is a dreamer. This is a rule of thumb for new voters: D=Democrat=Dreamer (these people make decisions based on emotions like the rioter in Ferguson, MO; or those peddling man caused global warming). R=Republicans=Realist (these folks make decisions based on facts, science or experience).

Hirning proposes everybody go on Medicare and forget Obama

care. Medicare actually cost 900% more than what the Dreamers promised and is in such financial trouble that if it isn't addressed will fail in a few years. We all know how the White House Huckster in Chief promised keeping our doctors, health plans, lower cost, and on and on. Those ongoing misrepresentations (lies) keep floating through the major media like Dreams from the White House.

Obama care employs thousands of bureaucrat navigators at the IRS alone to enforce compliance of the masses, much like the KGB or the Gestapo in other places at other times.

You seldom if ever find bureaucrats in private (for profit) companies because they cannot afford to pay people to sit on their

backsides watching porn or play games. They must make a profit or they go broke. Public Service Union people (bureaucrats) are notorious for spending tax dollars just to spend or to spend for meetings they hold in Las Vegas. Maybe you saw the bureaucrat with his wine sitting in the tub overlooking the city on his tax payer paid holiday! (Then again you may not if you depend on the broadcast media for your news.) Yep, those taxpaying companies must watch expenses or they disappear, public outfits just grow & grow, spend & spend, waste & waste.

Hirning admits the V.A. is a horror story of mismanagement. He cannot see through his ideological blind eyes the only efficiencies that exist are on paper;

in government they are never realized. The problem is people. Some people always work hard, some never do. Most are honest, some are not. A few even realize their pay is from taxpayers and try to give them their monies worth, most do not!

Only a free society where freedom of choice in all areas from hamburgers to hospitals can grow and thrive like America has. When you remove the profit, you remove the competition and the challenge to "build that better mousetrap". All those numbers from Hirning on savings and care in his single payer dream is just that, a fantasy or dream.

**Greg Anderson  
Cave Junction**

## Obituaries

**Merlyn Frederick "Jack" Miller, age 81**, of O'Brien, died Monday, December 8, 2014 at Royale Gardens Health & Rehabilitation Center.

No services are planned. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors are in charge of arrangements.

## ~Letter of Thanks~

The *Illinois Valley News* wants to thank the Illinois Valley Fire District for their fast response on the scene when Kylie Sparks, a young O'Brien women with Down's Syndrome, was lost a few weeks ago. In most

cases, it is the IV Fire District, largely staffed by local volunteers, who is first to respond to the scene of almost any Valley emergency - and we are all very grateful for their broad range of services.

# ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

## Save The Date For more listings go to [www.ivcalendar.org](http://www.ivcalendar.org)

### Dec. 11

IVHS Music Concert at IVHS at 7 p.m.

### Dec. 11

'Cookies by the Bakers Dozen' for people and their best friends, too! Learn how to use fruits and vegetables for nutritious-good tasting cookies. Hazel will also be showing how to make your eggs last which will include proper care, handling, freezing and storage. This class will be held at the RCC/Kerby Belt Building from 6:30-8:30 p.m.. Please pre-register by calling Kimberlie at 541-592-4763.

### Dec. 12

IVHS Boys Varsity Wrestling Away vs. North Bend High School at 11:30 a.m.

IVHS Girls JV Basketball at Home vs. Sweet Home at 4 p.m.

IVHS Boys JV Basketball at Home vs. Sweet Home at 5:30 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School

IVHS Girls Varsity Basketball at Home vs. Sweet Home at 5:30 p.m.

IVHS Boy Home vs. Sweet Home s Varsity Basketball at 7 p.m.

### Dec. 12-13

The Annual Artisans' Holiday Faire this year will be at the County Building on Friday, Dec. 12 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Dec. 13

IVHS Speech/Debate Varsity Away vs. North Medford High School

IVHS Boys Varsity Wrestling Away

vs. North Bend High School

IVHS Girls Varsity Basketball Away vs. Rogue Valley Adventist at 6 p.m.

IVHS Boys Varsity Basketball Away vs. Rogue Valley Adventist at 7 p.m.

### Dec. 13

"A Solstice Story" dance and theater presentation based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will take place December 13 at 6 p.m. and December 14 at 2 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School Cafeteria, 101 S. Junction Ave, Cave Junction. Presented by the Lorna Byrne Studio to School Performing Arts Program, made possible by a grant from Oregon Community Foundation. Co-Sponsors: Dancefarm, Evergreen Elementary, IRVAC, and IVCDO. Admission: Pay-What-You-Can sliding scale at the door. Information: 541-415-8010.

### Dec. 14

St. Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church, Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 1p.m. Soup and bread served at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

### Dec. 15

The Freedom from Pesticides Alliance is having an important meeting Monday the 17th, at the Senior Center. The discussion will be centered around, "What's Next?" In 2015 we face yet another year of toxic chemicals. Then too, with the O&C lands at play, in all probability far more. Our county faces chemicals from multiple fronts. We are also faced with cancer clusters seldom talked about. What then to do? Join us for a

provocative discussion regarding the future of our toxic environment. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. @ The Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 E River St, Cave Junction. Coffee and Tea provided ~ Treats Welcome.

### Dec. 15

COMMUNITY MEETING with "Neighborhood Watch" Monday, Dec. 15, Wild Rivers Brewing & Pizza, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dinning Social Hour/music 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. After reports by Neighborhood watch groups, presentations will be given by Sheriff Gil Gilbertson: program on Community Watch network, joined by (newly elected) Sheriff Dave Daniel: on Transparency and networking agencies, Dennis Hoke (Chief IVFD) talks on Emergency Preparedness, and Joseph Rice with Oath Keepers on their Community Team building program. A celebration for Sheriff Gilbertson's 8 years of service and welcome aboard Sheriff Daniel. Introductory to the newly formed, in 50 States and 3133 Counties, "People's" Common Law Grand Jury, with a Josephine County Chapter's meeting starting at 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP for seating, or info. Call: Guenter - 541-592-4124 or [cmec@cavenet.com](mailto:cmec@cavenet.com) for agenda and packet Dec. 17.

### Dec. 15

The Lorna Byrne Middle School Music Department presents the annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 17. The Bands and Choir will perform a variety of holiday fare beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the

Jamie Scott Memorial Gym. Admission is free but donations at the door are always appreciated.

### Dec. 20

Last Minute Christmas Gifts Bazaar Dec. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Rd, Cave Junction. Handmade Arts & Crafts / Bake Sale Gift wrapping available. Enjoy yummy soup & desserts while you shop (available all day). Please join us for live music, fellowship & fun. For more info call 541-592-6058. 100% of proceeds to benefit the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley.

### Christmas, Dec. 25

Cave Junction Cares presents Christmas breakfast at Jubilee Park from Noon - 2 p.m. All you can eat breakfast (pancakes, eggs, ham and Taylor sausage patties, gravy, biscuits and plenty of hot coffee, milk and orange juice). **CJ Cares is in desperate need of money & toys** please call Lynn at 541-592-3594. Donations can be dropped off at the UPS store at 223 Redwood Hwy.

### Christmas, Dec. 25

Traditional Christmas Dinner Free to everyone Noon to 3 p.m. At the County Building in Cave Junction (corner of Lister and Highway 199). Volunteers are always welcome Musicians and Donations are still needed. Please call Jennie 541-592-0327.

## Illinois Valley News

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