

# Gallant living the dream

By Lukas Eggen  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — If there was one thing Brendon Gallant was sure would happen in his life it was owning a bicycle shop.

"I moved down here from Alaska with the intent on owning and running a bike shop one day," Gallant said.

Little did he know that day would come much sooner than expected, as Gallant and his business partner own and operate the Bicycle Shop, formerly Veal's Bikes Plus, in Monmouth.

It was earlier this spring that Gallant happened upon Veal's Bikes Plus.

"I found this place on accident during a ride," Gallant said. "A buddy of mine broke his chain and this was the closest place."

The previous owner wanted to close the store.

Gallant and his business partner had been talking about running a store together for years.

"That turned into us buying the business, the assets and everything," Gallant said. "It was a well-timed coincidence."

Gallant was born into a bike family.

"Our family has a motorcycle dealership in Alaska," Gallant said. "I could never afford one, but we also had a bicycle shop. My parents got divorced when I was, I don't know, 8, 9, 10, and they lived three miles apart. The easiest way for me to go back and forth was to ride a bike."

During the summer of 2008, Gallant took his riding to a new level.

"That was the turning point where it went from a hobby to a really strong passion that has been really influential in my life," Gallant said.

Gallant tried to join a professional cycling team after earning his graduate degree in 2010. It didn't work out, but he gained something



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

**Brendon Gallant is one of the two co-owners of The Bicycle Shop in Monmouth.**

## Go for a ride

**What:** The Bicycle Shop  
**Where:** 155 Main St. W., Monmouth  
**Hours:** Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**For more information:** [www.thebicycleshopmonmouth.com](http://www.thebicycleshopmonmouth.com).

more valuable — his first connection with his future business partner, Graham Howard.

They pair knew early on they would work well together.

"We have skill sets that complement each other," Gallant said. "His experience in the industry surpasses mine, and I can put more of the business structure together."

At first, Gallant's plan was to step into a leadership role at his family's dealership in Alaska. But, he yearned to return to Oregon.

"I wasn't really happy with my work-life balance," Gallant said. "I missed the lifestyle I had in Oregon."

So, he returned, got a job at a bicycle shop and waited for the perfect opportunity.

Now that it's here, Gal-

lant is eager to get the ball rolling.

"It's surreal in the sense that I don't feel like I'm going to work," Gallant said. "I never really have felt that way. When I start to feel like that, it's time to move on."

Currently, the shop offers bike sales and repairs. Rentals will be offered in the future.

"The service center is a big push for us," Gallant said. "We want to take care of people in 24 to 48 hours."

Gallant said the shop will also be active in the community, reaching out to college students and community members.

"There are fewer people getting on bikes and fewer bicycle stores year over year since about 2010," Gallant said. "Those are pretty big red flags. My takeaway is you

can't have a business where you expect people to buy. You can have it in the back of your mind, but if you treat people like a transaction, they aren't going to come in. What do we provide? Our culture. Our vision. This is fun for me, but I treat it with respect. Our passion is what brings people in."

As is their knowledge of all sorts of bikes — and their ability to make it easy to understand.

"We focus on what people want to do," Gallant said. "You don't need a \$3,000 mountain bike if you just want to ride to work. We also want to get rid of the words or phrases that the industry creates. That may be good for us, but my job is to translate them into real terms."

The short-term goal is to get the business, which the duo self-financed, to a self-sustaining level.

As the Bicycle Shop gains its footing, Gallant is excited to see what the future holds.

"We have little projects here and there," Gallant said. "It feels like things are coming together, but continuing to progress forward."

# Contract

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"Target solution is just training, it tracks your training. It doesn't provide you with policies. It doesn't provide you with how you enact those policies," Hertel said. "It doesn't provide you operational guidelines. It doesn't do any of that. All it does is provide you with training. ... My fear is that we have a group of people who are trained to operate one way in a certain geographical area and another way to operate in a different geographical area. How are they going to keep track of that?"

Bob Davis, Southwest board member, said Falls City seeking third-party help pushes them further apart on a new agreement.

"You have taken steps to make that negotiation harder because now you've got another entity in here," Davis said.

Ungricht said he didn't believe he had a choice because the draft contract had Falls City paying \$36,000 for Southwest's administrative services, but only receiving about \$27,000 for Falls City firefighters assisting on incidents in the district. He said the city can't afford that and was disappointed that the two sides couldn't continue the partnership they've had for decades instead of what he feels is a

Southwest attempt to take over Falls City's department.

"It was put to me that we would contract with Southwest to run all of our station operations. That is what I heard at that (negotiation) meeting. I did not record it or take minutes, but that's what I heard," Ungricht said. "You were going to rent the station for \$1. We were going to pay you \$36,000, and it wouldn't be our department, it would be Southwest."

Falls City City Councilor Tony Meier, who has attended negotiations, said he understood the discussion the same way.

Rod Watson, Southwest board member, said that was never the case and financial negotiations are still on the table.

"I would like to think it's not a takeover. Falls City would still be its own department, and the only purpose we have is to help you stay trained, reporting, everything that needs to take place so none of us are in trouble," Watson said. "I'm hoping that the board can, in the next 30 days, we can get together and see what the bottom dollar is, and we can access things that Falls City's going to pay for out there and the things that Southwest is going to pay for out there."



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

**Falls City and Southwestern Polk Fire have found it difficult to reach an agreement.**

## Loren Ediger

Aug. 11, 1921 – Nov. 25, 2017  
Loren Ediger passed from this Earth to Heaven on Nov. 25, 2017, aged 96 years.



Loren Donald Ediger was born on Aug. 11, 1921, in Dayton.

He was the oldest son of AW and Helen (Dick) Ediger. Growing up, he lived in Dayton, Dallas and the surrounding communities, the oldest of nine children.

He went to school at the Polk Station School, which

sits today on the grounds of the Dallas Christian & Missionary Alliance Church.

Loren met Betty June Wedgwood, of Bremerton, Wash., when she came to Dallas along with some other girls from her church at the invitation of Loren's younger brother Jamie.

The two found that they had many similar interests and eventually both attended Simpson Bible College in Seattle.

They married after graduation on June 14, 1947, in Bremerton.

It was at Simpson where they heard the call to become missionaries, after hearing Dr. John Dale talk

about his work among the Indians in Mexico.

With a few large trunks and no knowledge of the Spanish language, they headed to Tamazunchale, Mexico, to join the Mexican Indian Mission.

In 1947, most travel in Mexico was by train, burro, or foot.

They learned Spanish and then were assigned to the small village of Zapotitan, in the Mexican jungle about halfway between Mexico City and the Gulf of Mexico. It was a five-hour hike from the nearest road.

Later, they settled in Cuauteman, Puebla — a small village deep in the Sierra Nevada Oriental in the northern part of the state of Puebla. The predominant language of the area was Aztec.

Loren loved the Mexican people, missionary work, and the Lord. He was always a humble man.

Together, Loren and Betty

served in Mexico as missionaries for nearly 30 years and along the way had six children: Rebecca, Edwin, Emily Ruth, Thomas, Loren Jr., and Nathan.

They moved back to southern California in 1976, and worked in various jobs and ministries until 1978, when they were called to be the Directors of Harbor House, an inner-city mission in Oakland, Calif., where Loren preached and ministered and Betty played the organ and taught music.

They taught English to the area's large Hmong and Mien immigrants.

They "officially" retired in 1982 to Junction City, but then moved back to California in 1986 and lived in Arleta, Rosamond, Castaic and Sacramento.

Loren and Betty lived in Auburn, Calif., in the Sierra Nevada foothills until Betty's death in 2005.

They were married for 57 years.

In 2013, Loren moved to the Los Angeles area to be closer to family.

In addition to his six children, he is survived by 16 grandchildren and 18 great-

grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife Betty, his brothers Jamie and Richard, and grandson Matthew Schoof.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, at 10 a.m. at the Valencia Hill Community Church in Santa Clarita, Calif., 24933 Avenue Stanford, Valencia, CA 91355.

## Medardo Richard Sanchez

June 8, 1936 – Dec. 2, 2017

Medardo Richard Sanchez, 81, of Monmouth, died Dec. 2.

He was born on June 8, 1936 to Natividad and Manuela (Martinez) Sanchez in Hebronville, Texas.

Medardo married Judith Carlotta Petersen on Feb. 14, 1960, in Monmouth.

Surviving Medardo are sons, Richard (Taunia) Sanchez, of Utah, and Ray (Trisha) Sanchez, of Oregon; daughter Yolanda Kent, of Iowa; seven grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Judith.

Medardo's life will be celebrated at a private gathering at a later date.

Farnstrom Mortuary handled arrangements.

To leave an online tribute: [FarnstromMortuary.com](http://FarnstromMortuary.com).

## Obituary Information

Obituaries cost \$8 per 25 words (column inch) and include photos and a flag for veterans. Death and service notices run free of charge.

Obituary information must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the Monday before publication to be included in the newspaper.

Most funeral homes handle obituary information and provide it to the newspaper. However, information can also be submitted directly from family members.

Color and black-and-white photos can be submitted, but photos will only be published in black and white. The *Itemizer-Observer* uses a flag logo in the obituaries of people who served in the armed forces.

Death and service notices — like all information submitted to the news department — are subject to editing for style, content and length.

Information can be brought or mailed to the *Itemizer-Observer*, 147 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, or emailed to [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com).

For more information: Emily Mentzer, 503-623-2373.

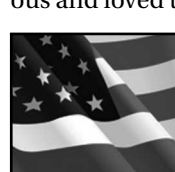


## Fini-Warren Kirby Erickson

Dec. 21, 1946 – Nov. 7, 2017

Fini passed away November 7th peacefully in his daughter's home, after battling lung cancer for 4 years.

He was born in Clay Center, KS. He grew up in Wichita, KS. He served 8 years in the Air Force. He was adventurous and loved to travel. He married the love of his life Patricia A. Goyer on Feb. 12 1977. They moved to Dallas, OR in 1978 where he spent most of his remaining life. Enjoying the community and finding his chosen family. He started his own business, Finius Fog Chimney Sweeping, for which he worked 20 years. He was a very handy man. There was nothing he could not fix. He always had his dogs by his side. He loved playing guitar with his many, many friends. Fini fished, hunted and had a true love for the outdoors and nature.



His wife passed away in 2001.

He is survived by his daughter Lynette L. Chasse, grandchildren Victoria L. Baker, and Austin D. Chasse and 2 great grand children. His brother Leif Erickson Mac Martin, nieces and nephews, and his beloved dog Lizzy.

A celebration of life will be held at the American Legion, Post 10 in Albany, Oregon at 11 a.m. on December 16, 2017. Later that evening, friends and family will gather to do one of Fini's favorite things; A school house jam in Salt Creek.

  
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