Viewpoints

Letters to the editor:

Proud of Pierce

Hey, now!

Just to let everyone know, Pierce Shields, Ashley Moore's winning partner, also graduated from Lane Community College with high honors during the June 14 ceremony.

He was awarded an Associate of Arts degree in Diesel Technology and is currently employed full-time in that field with Ramsey Waite of Eugene.

Over 1,200 students graduated that day and we are very proud of our PHS alumni.

Sincerely,

Pierce's parents
Mike & Cass Shields
Port Orford

Thanks for help

We would like to thank the many peole who aided us in so many ways when our house burned: The Port Orford, Langlois and Sixes fire departments were exceptional - thanks Gail - the ambulance crew were very caring and the police presence was welcome and needed.

To friends and neighbors who brought blankets and comfort, to you who have offered and supplied food, bedding and other needed items we give our heartfelt thanks.

Nip Barker and family,
including 'Joe'
Port Orford

Honor the anthem

First, let me make clear that I do not in any way wish to denigrate the many wonderful and heroic efforts of our many volunteer Firemen/women and EMT's. My critique has to do with the disrespect shown our Flag and our National Anthem.

After the July 4, 2007 parade, it was discussed specifically with the Chief of The Port Orford Fire Organization concerning the repeated activation of the emergency sirens on the vehicles in the parade while we were at the reviewing stand rendering respect to our Flag and our Country with the singing of the National Anthem. The resulting noise from the emergency equipment rendered the singing of the Anthem meaningless as no one could hear over the noise.

I was assured this would not happen this year, but it did, even worse than last year.

I was embarassed for our valiant singer, Ruby Wagner, and I fear there may well be no such participation next year. I know the youngsters along the parade route love the FireTrucks and the noise of the sirens, but the parade is the celebration of our Independence of which our Flag and Anthem are symbols of and for which many have fought and died.

Bill Dooley/Commander,
Port Orford American Legion Post 76

Read petition carefully

It's not about the money.

Nine Oregon counties chose "home rule" because they wanted a different plan of government, not to "save money." In all nine home rule counties, county commissioners are paid, as well as county administrators and sometimes, assistant county administrators. If the Harbor Community Action Committee's (HCAC) charter passes, our county will be the first to look for county commissioners as "unpaid volunteers" and it will cost us.

This home rule charter was written by a self-appointed group, HCAC, with little public input and not through the usual public process with a county charter committee, and it shows. The HCAC home rule charter, a piecemeal document, has little understanding of county government, its departments or functions.

Twice already, their charter has had huge sections deleted or changed because they were either illegal or unconstitutional. What is left is not much better.

What is left will give an unknown county administrator, most likely hired from outside the area, an inordinate amount of power, with little oversight. The charter gives responsibilities to the county commissioners, but keeps them from performing what is necessary to carry out those responsibilities.

Many of its laws are onerous and contradictory. A few examples:

◆ "The Board (of Commissioners) shall ensure county departments maintain access and transparency in governmental matters," but "commissioners shall not contact county employees, including department heads, in an attempt to manage, supervise, instruct or interfere …" Outside of saying "hello" you may be trying to manage, supervise, etc. as a county commissioner.

◆ "The Board shall adopt additional rules…compelling the attendance of the commissioners at Board meetings." Compelling? Like school children? Maybe the HCAC doesn't have much confidence that their "volunteer" commissioners will show up for Board meetings.

◆ "Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meetings and all other meetings … will be scheduled … no earlier than 6 p.m. to accommodate residents that work or commissioners who may work a traditional day shift job." There is the expectation that a county commissioner could work a full-time job and spend the research time necessary to understand the many complex issues that impact the whole county, and attend or participate in regional, state, or community activities. HCAC has a total lack of understanding here. Counties are not cities. We have a much broader range of mandates and responsibilities. Flexible meeting times are a must. Even cities have meetings prior to 6 p.m.

Most reasonable people will not

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To be continued ... by Pastor Doug Jamieson

Here are some ingredients for a short summer campout in the foothills of Port Orford in the 1950's and 60's:

1. Two of dad's wool navy blankets from World War II.
2. One coat, if remembered.
3. One pocket knife
4. Matches for a fire.
5. Throw in some candy bars and a couple of steaks.
6. At least one friend.

Camping by yourself is no fun.

With these items, my friend and I headed out of the house one nice summer day and went for an excursion we would never forget. This campout was north of our house by Hubbard Creek, a distance of about 300 yards away, although that did put us in the midst of the wilderness.

We spent the afternoon building roads and stick houses along the mud banks of the creek.

The water was chilly, as Hubbard Creek usually is. When the sun started down over the trees to the west, we gathered some dry sticks and built a small camp fire in the sandy area near the creek.

It really was a pristine moment in a most beautiful place but we barely mentioned it in our conversation. I think many times we subconsciously know how beautiful our surroundings are but we just don't take time to verbalize it.

Once the fire was cooking hot, we gathered some long sticks and prepared them as skewers for our steaks. I remember we were both famished and couldn't wait to eat.

The sun had disappeared and darkness was upon us. Oops! I forgot the flashlight. Was the meat done? I don't think it was when we decided to dig in.

Down the hatch and ohh how tasty to a couple of hungry boys who had been playing all day at the creek. Finally the time came to lay out the blankets and listen to the country sounds while watching the falling stars and satellites. (I never owned a sleeping bag until marriage and my wife built a large double bag.)

After about two hours of sight seeing and talking about what we were going to do the next day and maybe a little thought for the future, we heard noises behind us. These were not small little squirrel sounds, but the shaking of trees and brush that identified itself as at least one large animal.

First we heard the sound and then silence. We held our breaths and listened. There it was again. Our imaginations began to accelerate the situation to a new level. We were trying to gauge how far away the sound was and figured it was no more than 100 feet, or less.

About that time the crashing sound exploded from behind us, and we jumped up running through the blackness as fast as our feet would carry us, once again into the shelter of home.

The next morning we returned to our previous camping spot to discover just what made all that noise. There in the sand and right across where we had camped were not just one but several cow tracks. They could have stepped on us or stampeded when spooked by two scared boys.

We were glad to have run for home.

Sometimes it is a good thing to run for home. Home is very important to our children, and when trouble comes they can find shelter, safety, and comfort.

How's your home?

To be continued ...

Disaster training on tap

The American Red Cross has announced its summer schedule of disaster services classes in Port Orford.

An online class called "Introduction to Disaster Services" is available at www.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/_ and should be taken prior to attending any of the scheduled classes.

"Shelter Simulation/Shelter Operations" will cover how to effectively and sensitively manage shelter operations as a team in order to meet the needs of people displaced due to disasters. This class will be offered July 26 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The final class is being offered on August 30 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Called "Client Casework: Providing Emergency Assistance," it covers how to use the Client Assistance System to store information on disasters responded to by the Red Cross and use of client assistance cards.

Please call Christine Richardson at (541) 332-0381 for more information.

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$27.95 Lube, Oil & Filter
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(541) 332-0494

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RMLS

OVER 9 ACRES with an ocean view, creek frontage and a developed spring system in the Hubbard Creek area. Just listed for $185,000 # 277

Photos of the week: 'Hangin' round'

Contributed photo

This photo of a skateboarder defying gravity in the bowl at the Port Orford Skate Park, in Buffington Park, was sent in by Alan Mitchell, who got it off a blog.

Pet of the Week
at the Curry County Animal Shelter
'Elvis'

Elvis is a year old hound. He is obedient, intelligent and affectionate. He gets along well with other dogs and humans of all sizes.

Rodney is a distinguished senior gentleman. A beautiful heeler, at 11 years of age he is healthy and full of life from the tip of his nose to his stubby tail! He is not fond of other dogs but loves people companionship! If you want a loyal friend who enjoys quiet walks, Rodney is for you!

Emily is a year old Sharpei mix. Very small, well behaved and gentle, Emliy would make a great family dog! She gets along well with other dogs and humans of all sizes!

Jack Jack is a handome, two year old husky. Intelligent, energetic and well trained he would make a great family dog for an energetic family!

Aimee is a sweet Rotweiler mix. She is shy, intelligent and well trained! About two years old, she would make a great family dog or wonderful friend for a Senior!

Rippley Sue is a beautiful Lab/border collie/AmStaf mix. She is a sweet girl who would love a forever home. She gets along well with humans of all sizes and other dogs. Do you want a running partner — here she is!

Zena is a beautiful 6 year old black Lab. Gentle and well trained Zena wants to be part of your family!

Tuffy is a two year old chocolate Lab.

Dexter is a year old Brindle pit bull.

Call Patty Wills at **(541) 247-8461** if you have any questions.

Pet of the Week is sponsored by the Port Orford News, private individuals & businesses. 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

Sponsored by 'Marty'
'Happiness is the love you share with your pet.'

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 Morning ....11 a.m.
Sunday Evening.....5 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study....6:30 p.m.
10th & Washington
(541)332-2561

St. John's Catholic Church
Sunday .....8:30 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)332-3581

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

What's for Breakfast?
*Fresh Shredded to order Hash Browns
* Thick Hickory Smoked Bacon
* House Made Daily Sausage Gravy
*Fresh Ground & Brewed RayJen Coffee
Orders To Go 332-4515
Open at 7am 7 days a week
Lounge open at 7am too!!!
Choices? We have the most varied menu around! So for good food at great prices there is only ONE Choice!
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