

Viewpoints

Letters to the editor:

An open letter to the Port Orford City Council, Chamber, the Volunteer Fire Department and Board:

First I wish to repeat my thanks to everyone, as I expressed at last nights meeting, for your hard work and dedication.

I do however have a several additional comments/questions:

Your Board President and some of the volunteers seemed very defensive before any comments or questions were presented. There were those of us present that were offended by this attitude. I was very surprised to learn that the Fire Board and the Volunteers are considered separate units even having separate mailing addresses. Where is the Unity? What role does the Board have with the fire fighting activities of the volunteers and the overseeing of the department structure and requirements that State law requires?

(On the night of the meeting,) for the majority, we were there for information not to make accusations. Having lived in other rural areas, our community as a whole needs to stop the divisiveness and communicate with a capital "C". I understand that there

was one person who exhibited accusatory comments prior to the meeting and during, but that was not the majority of the citizens in attendance. This concerns the safety, even a life and death potential, if a fire were to get out of control in our area. The entire town of Port Orford would be impacted by such a tragedy.

As a point information for the young man that accused the group of being there for Cedar Terrace only, I would inform him that in a brief look around the room last night, I counted 6-8 people there who also go to City Hall for information and comments. There were citizens there Thursday night from Sixes and the Elk River area as well. Among those attending were people who have not only lived in rural areas but who have served as fire department volunteers or been in a supportive role with fire safety.

For me personally, this was my first Fire Department Meeting but it will not be my last. I want to understand the workings of the Dept. and assist in the community understanding, and help build a bridge of recognition for the volunteers work being done. If I had

concerns and questions about a 'city' fire situation I would be there and I am sure others would also. We are not us and them, we are one small community of people, City Limits and County, who care about our unique and beautiful area.

Does the Department generate incident reports?

I asked this question of the Chief today and was informed that these report are not made public. That brings up another question: Why? I think it would have helped a great deal if there is such a report and it had been read aloud at the outset of the meeting. I for one would like to read or hear such a report simply to understand the working of the Dept. better. Many feel we have a right to know how a tax supported department, under State regulations, respond to department incidents. I suggest this only to allow for open discussion of how we can assist the department in meeting their needs to serve the community in total. We are only human and there is always room for improvement. It would be helpful to publicize post-incident evaluations or debriefings that represent all volun-

teer fire fighting incidents. Not getting pending answers answered or being treated as we were is not acceptable and might effect life saving for us all. Rumors and misunderstandings and a sense of mishandling start from secrecy. Keeping information flowing and communication going will help us to work together for the good of all concerned.

I also asked the Chief this today: Why isn't there a water tank on premises at the Cedar Terrace Fire Station or other rural areas? This was a question brought up outside the meeting and I felt was important to understand. She told me that their tank needs to be filled with a pressurized system to be efficient. Considering that a recommendation is being made that we have tanks with pumps on our property under Senate Bill 360, how does it make sense if these systems we are to add to our property will be of no value? Or for that matter the value of the tanks included in the original plan for Cedar Terrace fire safety?

I lived in mountain community at one time and my memory may not be serving me correctly but I seem to

recall a generator type system that pressurized the water coming out of any tank to fill the water trucks. I encourage someone, beside me, to investigate the availability of such a system especially as this is a recommendation under Senate Bill 360, a plan recently discussed in a Port Orford News article. (Note: In two clicks my search came up with <http://www.homefire-fightingsystems.com/commonquestions.html> and there is all the resource for such a system.)

More trained volunteers is part of the answer but many of us are not physically able to do the actual fire fighting but there are other ways perhaps we can help. This was suggested at the meeting. Perhaps our recognition of volunteers in general can be improved and thereby encourage more volunteerism across the board.

And last but not least, I wish to my sincere thanks to everyone of the Volunteer Fire Department and all Port Volunteer, for your hard work and dedication.

I choose to bring this to a wide

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To be continued ... by Pastor Doug Jamieson

It was 1960 and I was seven when my dad brought home my first two-wheeled bicycle. It wasn't new, but it did serve the purpose of helping me learn how to ride.

There were a couple of us down the road from my house when I gave it a try. To this day I still remember the feeling as I steadied myself on the two wheels while starting from a slight incline on the road, then carefully letting go and free wheeling down the gravel road.

The first trip was only a matter of a few feet. Then, on each try a little more confidence came, until I was able to coast about 50 feet. There was no guard on the

chain, so I remember getting my pants hung up several times. That was quite annoying. Then, the whole process of learning how to peddle and steer at the same time without crashing became my next trial by error.

I don't know about you, but it seems like most things in my life have been learned by trial and error (mostly error).

It wasn't long before I was flying down the road with confidence. One day I ran into an object beside the road and went head over heels and over the handle bars, crashing on the ground, leaving my bike behind. That was painful and still remains another part of my memory bank.

The old bike had seen its day before arriving at my house so after mastering it, I went back to walking instead of riding.

That's the way it remained until my twelfth birthday. I came home from school and sitting on the back porch was a brand new single speed big tired bicycle that had been purchased from our own local Western Auto store. With this beauty I hit the road and kept on riding. I remember one of our big adventures was the old highway road around cemetery loop.

We used to walk our bikes up most of one side of the hill and fly like crazy down the other side. What a feeling of exhilara-

tion going down the hill as fast as most cars would travel. It seems to me that many of us work hard at trying to get somewhere in life.

We want to go as fast as we can to get there and often don't know when we have arrived at our destination so we keep on flying down the road. I have grown to like the idea of enjoying the ride.

There is always something or someone we meet along our road of life that may need more time and we shouldn't pass them by just because we want to get to the next station. It may even be one of our family members.

So, the next time you get in a big hurry to go somewhere,

remember to check around you. You might be missing the chance

of a lifetime. To be continued ...

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paid for with donations from the community.

To receive shoes, sign up at The Common Good. Please bring your children on Wednesday August 6 or Wednesday August 13 between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sign up early! If you are already certain of your children's shoe sizes, you can sign up by simply filling out an early registration form available any Wednesday in July at The Common Good, 1405 Idaho Street, in Port Orford.

Shoes will be distributed on Saturday August 16th at the Port Orford Christian Center (10th and Washington) from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. This year, the shoe distribution and school supply distribution will happen together – same time, same place!

Port Orford community mem-

bers: We're now halfway to our fundraising goal of \$3,000 to cover expenses for this wonderful program. We appreciate the generosity of many so far, but still need more contributions. Please send a check to "The Common Good – Shoes for Kids", PO Box 564, Port Orford, OR 97465. Or, feed the GIANT basketball shoe dona-

tion canisters at the Downtown

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Port Orford Garage
\$27.95 Lube, Oil & Filter
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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

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



Charlie is a real sweetheart. 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, Emily would make a great family dog! She gets along well with other dogs and humans of all sizes!

Jack Jack is a handsome, 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!

Ripley 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.'



Photo of the week: 'Kind of a Rube Goldberg ... '



Photo by Lance Nix

According to Photo of the Week winner Lance Nix, "This unique fishing contraption (it almost looks like a Rube Goldberg cartoon) was seen trolling the waters of Garrison Lake on Friday morning."

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 Morning11 a.m.
Sunday Evening.....5 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study....6:30 p.m.
10th & Washington
(541)332-2561

St. John's Catholic Church
Sunday8:30 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!

Port & Starboard Restaurant