

Centered seniors

By Beverly Dunlap
For the Port Orford News

“Being defeated is often only a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.”
— Marilyn Vos Savant, who is listed in the Guinness World Records Hall of Fame for highest recorded IQ. Published in the July issue of Guideposts Magazine

A very self-important university freshman from Ottawa University took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen standing next to him while waiting for a bus, that it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation. “You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one,” the student said, loud enough for the other passengers nearby to hear. “The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon, out spaceships have visited Mars. We have

nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers with light-speed processing and ...” Pausing for breath the senior took advantage of the break-in the student's litany and said: “You're right, son,” said the senior. “We didn't have those things when we were young ... so we invented them. Now, you arrogant little twit, what are you doing for the next generation?” The applause was resounding ... don't you just love senior citizens? The foregoing was not written by me (wish I had!). The article was sent to me by people that know how I write for Centered Seniors. This made me laugh and I wonder if it didn't happen! Hope you all enjoyed it too. It is a good thing that someone keeps records of inventions and discoveries and I have never seen a published list, but I am sure it exists! These things happen one at a time and sometimes in clusters. We took sci-

ence in junior high and there was a list at that time that I got to see. I shared that with my Mom and Dad and they were amazed - some of those things like electricity and planes were found or invented during their lifetime. They referred to their time as “The Time of Change.” Since then there have been many more and we can remember when we saw our first television and the first trip to the moon. It is my guess that I would be amazed at what the next 20-30 years will bring to the use by mankind - an escalator to the moon -- or mars? Hang in there seniors - the best is yet to come! We, however, have been here for the best of it! It makes me happy to be a part of “The Time of Change.” Stay happy and be proud of what our generation has been able to do. Have a good and happy week!

Facelift at Old City Jail



PON photo by Matt Hall

The Old City Jail has been cleaned up, with ivy removed and the interior cleared out. It will now soon be refurbished, according to Parks Commission plans.

LETTERS, from page 2

audience because it effects us all and hopefully will open the door for wider communication and cooperation in our City and immediate County areas. Further, I call upon the City Council and Chamber to work together to bridge the gaps with the volunteers of our town. Each little group has recognition for their volunteers and there are independent volunteers. Our beautiful town has so many volunteers we need a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration through the joint effort of the City and Chamber as a united effort. We need unity and communication not all this separation. Sincerely, Grace Lee Bonnell Port Orford ‘Home Rule questions’ The proposed Home Rule

Charter poses some practical questions for me. As one of the two support staff for the Commissioners, I am wondering if we will be providing support for five Commissioners and an Administrator and likely a Deputy Administrator, since someone else would need authority to act in the Administrator's absence. Realistically, more support staff would be needed. Where would you find office space for these six or seven or more people? At the very least, a remodel would be needed. And may I assume that the employees who have to stay for the regular evening meetings would get overtime pay? In researching the other home rule counties, I found that only Hood River pays less than Curry in total Commissioners'/Administrators' salaries (by \$900). And every single one of them collects more money (most get a lot more) in taxes and bonds than Curry. Of the six with Administrators, 4 employ one or more Deputy Administrators whose combined salaries are markedly higher than what our Commissioners make, plus benefits, vehicles, and expense allowances. Additionally, every home rule county pays salaries to its Commissioners; seven of the nine provide health and retire-

ment benefits; and, all of them provide either cars, car allowances, and/or reimbursed mileage. Curry County has money problems for sure. Many employees are concerned about losing their jobs. If we go to home rule, how will we pay for additional staff, office space, and overtime? Not to mention a special election? Home Rule might appeal to some, but I say, “Show me the money.” Pattie Cook, Gold Beach Defending ‘Home Rule’ I am truly concerned about two of our County Commissioners ability to read and comprehend word documents. I am sure both Commissioners Georgia Nowlin and Marlyn Schafer have copies and have read the Charter we will be placing before the public to vote on. In the Wednesday July 16 Pilot, Commissioner Nowlin again insults every City Council member and City and County Planning Commission member in Curry County by indicating you are incompetent unless you are paid, and not smart enough to understand County government. She also goes on to insult working people because the Charter requires that Commissioners meetings be held after 6 p.m. to accommodate them, just like all three Cities do. She neglected to point out that the Charter also states, “as may be practical,” when scheduling meetings. She also states that sections of the Charter were removed because they were, “illegal or unconstitutional.” We did take a couple of sections out because County Counsel Herbage thought they were unconstitutional. We don't believe they were, and only removed them to expedite the process. Nowlin continues to put out misinformation about the Charter just as we expected

those paid the generous salary and benefits of the County would. Commissioner Schafer in an article in the Curry County Reporter stated in a meeting while deriding Tom Huxley, (a member of our group, but not involved in creating the Charter), for having the audacity to ask for documentation for some of the outlandish expenditures of the Commissioners, (which they apparently don't have), that,” Huxley was one of the signatories to the proposed Charter.” Since Schafer has a copy of the Charter and I'm sure has read it thoroughly, one would think she would know he is not listed as one of the peoples names at the end of the document. Schafer further states concerning the Charter, “It is not constitutional.” This is not true; it's just her wishful thinking. We will very soon be circulating petitions to place the Charter on the November ballot. Copies of the Charter will be available to read with every petition circulator. Please read it and be informed. We believe the more you know about it, the more sense Home Rule Government will make in returning the power to the voting public. If you have questions, my home phone is (541) 12-8126. Ralph Martin Curry County Charter Committee, Harbor Another loss ... I am writing for the first time to thank you for saving the Port Orford News, and to warn you and your readers about another loss that is threatening to undermine the very fabric of our community. Recent evidence of this ongoing loss is paradoxically positioned on page one of the 7/2/08 PON, adjacent to the wonderful report on the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT) Stewardship Area Program

launch which has been designed to bring people together to promote regional sustainability through terrestrial work, fisheries management, and ocean science. As the trustee for family-owned forestry-grazing land at the headwaters of this world-class Stewardship Area, I applaud the work of POORT and look forward to participating in this vitally important effort. However, all attempts to save the area's rich natural resources will fail if there is not immediate action to stem the loss of our most precious resource - the creative class. In cities around the world, leaders are realizing that their futures hinge, not so much on luring new companies to town or on economic development strategies of the past, but on their ability to engage the next generation of professionals. This new generation includes "creative professionals" who work in healthcare, business, and finance, for example, and the "super-creative core," which includes scientists, engineers, and innovators, as well as artists, designers, writers, and musicians. This class is projected to be the core force of growth in our future economy, and will add millions of jobs in the next decade. Curry County still has the natural resource base to restore a solid foundation for a viable sustainable economy which will attract and maintain a creative class of future residents. However, as also reported on the above referenced PON page one, our community just lost one of the best and brightest members of this valuable creative class - Chris John - due to resignation and relocation. Are we as a community doing all we can to attract and retain such members? The ultimate goal of making the Curry County area a model of sustainability depends on efforts like POORT to balance economic prosperity, social jus-

tice, and ecological health, in order to create the highest possible quality of life in the best possible environment for present and future generations of all species. Terry Mock, Trustee, Ocean Mountain Ranch The cost of information ... Recently a Mr. Thomas Huxley requested information in the public domain from the government of Curry County. Fearing this information would not reflect favorably on them, Commissioners Schafer, Nowlin, and La Bonte' quickly held a meeting without giving the proper notice to the public and raised fees for requesting county records to astronomical rates. In particular they told Mr. Huxley the information he requested could cost as much as \$8,000. Mr. Huxley did not even want hard copies, he stated the information could be e-mailed to him. The county's raising of fees for records requests effectively makes them inaccessible to the average person. In my opinion this constitutes censorship hence my letter to the Editor. Attempting to charge \$8,000. for public records is nothing more than censorship. It is an evil no matter what the intentions are or who the perpetrator is. Censorship by a local county government is exactly the same as censorship by a dictatorship. It all boils down to the philosophy that we are smarter than you and we know is best for you to see and where it is best for you to get your information. To quote former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, “Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself. It is a hallmark of an authoritarian regime.” Censorship is not acceptable in Curry County. Joseph Willett Harbor

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BRIEFS, from page 3

Fun Zone, Crazy Norwegians, Coos Curry Supply, or at Chetco and Sterling banks. Thank you for helping our kids. The Common Good is a non-profit, all volunteer administered organization and equal opportunity provider.

Langlois Lions to hold rummage sale
There will be treasures for everyone at the Langlois Lions Rummage sale on Saturday, August 2. The sale will be held at the Lions Clubhouse on Floras Lake Loop in Langlois. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. See you there!
‘Pennies For Pooches’
Friends of the Shelter is having a fundraiser, “Pennies For Pooches,” during August and

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