

Centered seniors

By Beverly Dunlap
For the Port Orford News

“What is meaningful to me? What do I enjoy? What am I good at?”
— *Questions Harvard’s Tal Ben-Shahar asks all of his students to answer about themselves in his Positive Psychology class*

I have two calls to make. One is about my insurance which has gotten all tangled up for some reason - unknown to me - so it needs to be explained to me before I pay an expensive payment!

The other call is about the computer. I have several friends who refuse to get into the cyber world of computers, and I think they are smart! Smarter than I am - I am still in that learning mode. Have you noticed that young people don't have any problem with these new Wonder machines?

It was with dread that I put both calls off until Friday morning. I didn't remember that it is casual Friday and they will answer less calls I guess.

So I waited until Monday morning bright and early. Have you had the experience of trying to call a company or an institution or even many businesses today? They all have this telephone system that is supposed to save them time and money. They don't need to hire a person

to handle calls, the computer does it! Well, it is supposed to answer the phone and get the customer to the right person to talk to.

Let's take the call to the health insurance people. I don't need to tell you how much a month we pay for insurance. It is a huge amount to cover the current medical costs and as seniors this is a must-have insurance. The insurance decides what they are going to pay for which illnesses and which medications. When they discontinue paying for something they have paid for in the past, we need to check it out.

The insurance telephone asked me for my zip code and my date of birth. I was to press the numbers on the key pad. I did that, but their computer told my phone that they were not able to understand the numbers. My phone is weak? Ok, try again, “We cannot identify those numbers, please try again!”

That is not a person, that is a computer telling me that it doesn't understand my telephone. No wonder it can take hours to just to get to a person that has a shot at giving me an answer. I struggled with that phone call for over an hour. I finally talked with a human being, that shared the following information:

“I don't understand it either lady, I will check it out for you!”

Sure he can, but then I am supposed to call him or the company back at a later time. I refused, and told him that I was not going to pay the bill until someone explained it to me! I hung up the phone mad, upset and decided that I would never call them again.

By that time, however, identity theft was a real possibility, because I had clicked in all my numbers for a computer that was not human!

I have made a decision to deal with only a human being when I have problems with anything! Oops - I still need to deal with my computer problem! The machine is not working, and when I can get a screen it is asking me to place more numbers and my password!

There is probably a way to get an answer, but I have made the decision that I will deal only with human beings! They must be a guru around here somewhere that will help me with an answer and walk me through the problem and solution.

There are good people in this world that will help me without knowing my social security number.

I was working for a large corporation when these new telephone systems came into being. I thought that it was a bad idea at the time, because there was no feeling and no desire on the part of a computer

Who’s on second?



Photo by Jean Shank

A “helicopter makes it to second base in Port Orford's Buffington Park,” wrote Port Orford’s Jean Shank who took this picture last week. “The doors unlocked and police are trying to find the pilot.” continued Shank. Officer John Fink investigated and discovered that the helicopter belonged to a visitor from Brookings who was attending a meeting in Port Orford.

to help a human! At that time it was a way to replace people that had been practicing for years, learning how to best handle people.

It was one of the ways companies used to build their relationship with their customers - called Customer Service.

It sounds wonderful to me today.

I am going to have a happy week, because I am not going to accept an inanimate object to handle my personal problems!

You have a happy week also, and you may try staying off the business calls too!

Port Orford Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report July 2007-June 2008

The Port Orford Volunteer Fire department membership has completed another year of intensive training and responding to calls. We have completed our reaccreditation requirements with the State. Previous to July 2006, the Port Orford Volunteer Fire Department had never been accredited. We have met all mandated requirements for current CPR, HazMat and Bloodborne Pathogen classes and continued training. We have trained many hours beyond our Wednesday night required drills.

Several specialized training opportunities were available to us this year. We were able to train extensively with our extrication tools on vehicles that were stored at City Shops. Hands on practice with vehicles to cut up are invaluable in training. We also were allowed to smoke a house multiple times that allowed for entry practice and search and rescue practice with a life size and weight dummy. More than half the department took a weekend long class presented by the State on Prehospital Trauma Life Support. This class taught methods of stabilizing and extricating victims of serious accidents. This class was attended by members of Langlois and Sixes Fire,

Sumner Fire and Port Orford Community Ambulance. We were also fortunate to be selected for free training from the Tactical Response Academy. We shared this two day classroom and simulator training with Port Orford Ambulance, Port Orford Police, Sixes and Langlois Fire.

We visited Driftwood during Fire Prevention Week and gave presentations to the classes as well as handing out materials to the students. We produced an insert for Fire Prevention Week that featured the firefighters from Port Orford, Sixes and Langlois Fire Departments. We also visited Driftwood in conjunction with Coos Forest Protection Agency for summer Fire Prevention presentations. We attend the fire drills at Driftwood and are pleased with how quickly and orderly they accomplish exiting the school. We also provided tours of the Fire Hall to groups of young children along with age appropriate handouts and fire related gifts.

The membership has always been dedicated to community service beyond training and responding to calls. This year, for the first time, the Department was able to give a scholarship to a graduating senior. We take

great pride in supporting a member of our fire department family in pursuit of higher education. Involvement in our community is important to our members.

We have faced difficult situations this year. The December storms and high winds created a communications breakdown; yet we quickly provided alternatives to the community through an information distribution system that included notices in grocery bags, at the Post Office and with the UPS Driver. We had back up plans that remain in place for notifying all emergency services personnel of incidents should the paging system temporarily fail. We had a Tsunami Warning that had no known time frame. With no information, we were able to do some notification to low lying areas in conjunction with Port Orford Police and get our equipment to higher ground.

As the County has now implemented monthly Tsunami sirens tests (first day of every month at 5:00 p.m.), we put notices up reminding people, call Elder homes and other establishments to remind people. Firefighters and Port Orford Police are posted at evacuation routes during the tests. We continue to work on plans to provide the quickest

and best long term response in case of a major disaster. Port Orford is particularly vulnerable to tsunamis, earthquakes and major wildland fires. We remind citizens to have in place a plan to quickly evacuate with their necessary personal items.

In addition to the above mentioned special training, our First Responders have taken additional classes to maintain their certification. We have had classes on Scene Preservation, Hostile Scenes and continue to train frequently with Port Orford Ambulance, Port Orford Police, and Sixes and Langlois Fire Departments. As we all provide Mutual Aid to each other, this interagency training is essential. The cooperation between all emergency services agencies in North County has never been better. We are all committed to service to and the safety of our community and all emergency services responders.

As always, our fiscal year ends with preparing for the 4th of July Fireworks. We have extra meetings with countless hours involved to assemble the show. We have an additional certified Public Display Operator this year and continue to work closely with the Jubilee

Committee and our Fireworks Company to shoot an excellent show.

We are headed into another wildland season that has already had us mutual aid to Coos Forest Protection agency for a wildland fire. As large fires burn across the West, we must all make our property as wildland resistant as possible. No community is immune from an uncontrolled wildland fire.

Belonging to the Port Orford Volunteer Fire Department is an honor and a commitment. We are always looking for new members who can dedicate to teamwork, safety and weekly training. Anyone interested in joining should contact Chief Gayle Wilcox at 332.0445 for an application.

The POVFD members appreciate the support we receive from our community as we risk our lives to protect. We spend countless hours apart from our families to train, educate and serve. We thank our Board, the council, our families and our brothers and sisters in Emergency Services. Without this support, our job would be even more difficult. We are proud and honored to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
— Gayle Wilcox
Chief POVFD

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BRIEFS, from page 3

will be followed by a delicious Potluck Dinner.

On Friday, August 29, at 5 p.m., we will celebrate a Memorial Mass commemorating the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, our Patron Saint.

Do you want to learn just what it is that we Catholics do and why? Please join us at any one of our Masses and let our new Pastor Fr. Andrew explain.

Are you new to the area and looking for a Church Home? Are you a Catholic who has been away from your Church Home for a while? We look forward to welcoming you to any of our celebrations.

For questions, please call 253-6250.

Hot weather prompts fire alert

Meteorologists are reporting that thunderstorms could potentially spread up the full length of the Oregon Cascades by Wednesday evening. Fire danger has climbed to extreme in Jackson and Josephine counties and fuels continue to dry out across the state. The extreme heat forecast for the middle of this week could cause other areas in the state to change their fire danger signs to “Very High” or “Extreme.”

As the upper-level low continues to edge closer and ejects minor disturbances into the state, the threat of thunderstorms moves eastward into central and eastern Oregon. Model guidance increases the chances of thunderstorms to over 25 percent in east-central and northeast Oregon Thursday and Friday - quite high for a thunderstorm forecast.

The Walker Range Forest Protective Association

announced the closure of a 1,700-acre parcel of private forestland in northern Klamath County due to extreme wildfire danger. Effective Aug. 1, access to those lands located west of Highway 97 between Gilchrist and La Pine is restricted to landowners that own property within the closed area.

“We're going into the hottest, driest part of the year, so we're

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LETTERS, from page 3

My reading wish is this: That the paper do a two-three part series on just why our water and sewage bills are through the roof, beginning with the farce of some years back (before I came to town) when the ocean ate up the expensive water/sewer plant, and continuing through to the never-ending mystery of where in blazes the 2.5 million gallons are disappearing to EVERY month!

Oh, and when you finish that, the history of all the enmity on the city council would be

informative - not to mention, titillating - too.

Nevertheless, keep up the good work. I'm actually cutting up the paper every week and mailing it away to my friends, so there must be a lot of good stuff in it ...

Cheers,
J Michael Kenyon,
Port Orford

A great fair ...

I would like to take this time to extend a hearty “Thank You”

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With OVER 1,000 papers sold each week in the Port Orford, Langlois, Bandon and Gold Beach areas, the Port Orford News is being read by YOUR customers.



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Lars Larue

by Gary Romele

