

Viewpoints

Letters to the editor

'Appalled at reaction ...'

I attended the Port Orford Rural Fire Protection District Board meeting on July 9, 2009.

At this meeting I was rather appalled at the reaction of certain board members when Brice Wagner, said that he was a volunteer writer for the Port Orford News and would it be okay for him to report about the board meeting.

Edna Auld, Board Chairman, said she considered that to be a conflict of interest, because he was a board member.

What was she saying? That if you are a news reporter you cannot be a board member, or that if you are a board member you cannot report about the district which you represent?

There was quite a lot of discussion on this topic and it was suggested that perhaps he could report on the meeting but that he would have to send it to all the board members to be edited by each and approved by each and it should not have his name on the article.

Since when does a reporter e-mail his articles to the city council or county commissioners, or the president, or the governor, for approval before printing this in the paper?

She also said she had read his articles with their inaccuracies.

I know that Brice tries to be as accurate as possible with all his articles, he spends much time researching, and calling different ones to make sure what he is writing is accurate.

It was also stated that the community was not interested in what took place at the PORFPD board meetings or more people would attend their meetings.

I believe that the community is interested in the PORFPD, and their meetings, perhaps more would attend these meetings if the time (5:30 p.m.) was not so close to most people's dinner time. These meetings are not dinner meetings.

Ruby Wagner,
Elk River

Quick help from city

About 10 a.m. Saturday, July 4, we placed an emergency call to the City to report a significant water leak in front of our home.

Within two minutes (no exaggeration) Rick Rogerson was on scene. Within twenty minutes Rick and Kurt Franceschine, were making the repair.

Thank you Rick and Kurt. We hope you didn't miss the parade.

Thank you, Beverly Manes for naming names.

Thank you Port Orford!

Harry & Amy Wareham,
Port Orford

Thoughts on SB29

The Oregon Senate Rules Committee earlier this year held hearings on SB29, the "IRV Local Option" bill. This bill would revise state elections law to accomodate and set uniform rules for the use of IRV by local governments which choose to adopt it for election to their offices. Ashland City Council and Lane County Commissioners support SB29.

IRV, stands for Instant Runoff Voting and it is a form of preference voting which is allowed under the Oregon State Constitution and has been used in Australia for almost 100 years.

This is a highly effective democratic voting procedure that allows voters to rank order candidates for an office while saving tax payers huge sums involved with runoff elections.

I'd like to know what Port Orford's governing body thinks of Instant Runoff Voting and SB29.

Thank you.

Nella Reed Abbott
Port Orford/Elk River

About the chalk contest ...

When a friend of mine passed a couple of years back, I wanted to commemorate her life in some simple way - she was full of life, spark, laughter and loved her family very much - I came up with the chalk art contest.

The purpose behind the contest is not about the cash prizes,

Send your letters, thanks, cheers and jeers to portorfordnews@gmail.com.

All letters must have a name, address and phone number for contact questions. Please keep your comments and arguments empirical - and please show respect for the opinions of others in this, your open forum. Thank you.

— Matt Hall, Editor, Port Orford News

the winning, or the recognition. It is meant as an opportunity for a family, child or children to spend time under the sun together.

I award prizes as an extra aside, and names are posted as an extra aside. Because everyone cannot 'win', I provide a coupon for an ice cream sandwich to each entrant, hoping they will realize that everyone is a 'winner'.

I hope that parents are able to instill in their children the joy of participation and self-expression, whether they 'win' or not. For every piece of art is time well spent, with the whole community benefiting from the chalk art.

Thanks for your time,

Betty Sejlund,
Port Orford

An open letter to President Obama

Your efforts at healthcare reform bring real hope for our nation. However, as I've watched the healthcare discussions at the national level, I've wondered how a fair decision can be made, when virtually all the participants have glaring financial conflicts of interest through their associations with the health insurance and pharmaceutical industries. Most, if not all, the major decision makers receive contributions from healthcare industries, and/or have sizable monetary investments in these industries.

In struggling to envision a democratic, equitable solution to our healthcare crisis in the face of major financial conflicts, I've come up with a solution I'd like you to seriously consider: Find

healthcare leaders with no financial interests in the health insurance or pharmaceutical industries and assign to them the task of crafting a public option plan. Who would this be?

The answer is simple: single payer advocates, including those from Physicians for a National Health Plan (pnhp.org) and the California Nurses Association (calnurses.org). These are strong leaders who understand the healthcare crisis both from their hands-on experiences and from their tireless work in advocating for sustainable, sensible healthcare reform. They have repeatedly been denied access to healthcare meetings, but it's time to include them, giving them a position as the major players they deserve to be, and letting them design the public option portion of your healthcare proposal.

Healthcare decisions should be based on what's best for our nation's health, not on what's

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Pets of the Week at the Curry County Animal Shelter 'Capone & Goofy'

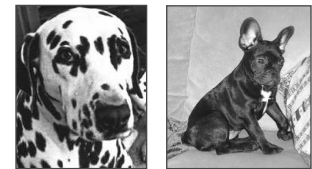


The Curry County Shelter would like to express it's gratitude for all the support the community has done to help our shelter to maintain a humane sanctuary for our furry friends in this past year. Please continue to support us as our residents appreciate all you can do. Thanks for all your support. **Capone** is a 1½ yr old Pitbull. This is one very nice and friendly dog. You wouldn't know by the way he acts that he is a pitbull. He loves to play with the ball and enjoys any attention he can get. Capone deserves that special person who will take the time to love him and give him a bright future. He is a great dog. **Goofy** is 2 year old Coonhound. He is a hunting dog so he requires some time and energy. Goofy needs a large fenced area and exercise daily would go along way to make him a happy dog. He gets along well with other dogs and loves children. Goofy will be a great loyal companion with a just a little effort given to training and exercise.

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Fair winners



Contributed photos

It was at the Gold Beach County fair talent show and Dune Fougerolles, 11-years-old, center, won first place in the Youth division and will go on to the State Fair in Salem in Sept. She sang a jazz tune called, "I Hear Music," and clearly has an exceptional voice. She is shown here with her brother Quentin (left), also 11-years old who entered art work and won cash prizes for his pieces. To the right is Joanie McNerlin, who won third place in the adult division. She is well known in Port Orford for her contribution to the music scene and is an accomplished musician on the clarinete, and flute. She played and sang a Louis Armstrong favorite, "A Kiss to Build a Dream On." Not featured in this photo was the second place winner for the youth division, Megan Olmsted, 13-years-old, who played a lovely Scottish tune on her fiddle.

To be continued ... by Pastor Doug Jamieson

In the next few sentences, I can not say all that needs to be said, so I will ask you to read between the lines.

Last night there was a house full of teenage girls and only one with no history of an absent father. As much as possible, I tried to imagine what life would have been like with my Dad gone from my childhood years. I find it nearly impossible to feel the emotion and absence.

The fact remains that in my presence there are young ladies and young men, struggling with loneliness and attachment disorders that my mind finds difficult to comprehend. Yet, we must try.

I wonder how many readers struggle with the absence of a parental figure right here in Port Orford. I have felt the gut wrenching loneliness when my wife of 36 years balanced on the edge of life and death. But, I cannot seem to feel the heartache of having no friends or family to care for my needs, or vice versa.

I have always had family. When I am down, they pick me up, and when they are down, we help each other stand together.

How many strangers are there in our community? Maybe they live next door. They may hear the laughter and playing without ever uttering a word, silently

moving through life.

As I write about history and personal activities of years gone by, occasionally I feel the need to simply touch the Spirit of a part of our village.

We need each other. Perhaps some more than others, but whether we admit it or not, we still need to know that our life means something, and someone



Doug Jamieson

today, right now, needs an encouraging word.

Please forgive me if I walk by and forget to say hi. It might just be the day you really needed a good word, and as much as we tend to find ourselves in front of the computer, we still need real live interaction.

Sometimes I feel like hovering over my children and hugging them, and they probably think I'm crazy, so I try and make the appropriate action at an orderly time. I could just forget the whole idea and stay quietly to myself, but the time will come when one will need Dad. I will be there!

Will you?
To be cont'd ...

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CRAFTSMAN HOME over-looking town: 2 br, 2 ba, single car garage sitting on a large lot. \$289,000

Missing:

Since Feb. 23, Tan & White, long-haired Chihuahua, has tag with Number on back. Lost near Silver Butte & Port Orford Loop. REWARD! Call 290-2309



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