

some of the responsibility. Our economic engine is partially fueled by the production and sales of weapons. Who do you think made that fucker's assault rifle? You know, good old Bernie describes himself as a socialist-democrat, and it would serve humanity well if the big three religions could describe themselves as Buddhist-Christian, Buddhist-Jewish or Buddhist-Muslim.

John Wilson
Eugene

UNSAFE VACCINE

I saw *Vaxxed* twice during its run in Ashland, and I encourage all Eugene parents to see this important documentary telling how fraud and corruption has permitted an unsafe vaccine to remain on the market and cause great harm to tens of thousands of children.

In February 2004, Dr. Thompson (CDC whistleblower) expressed concerns about the MMR study's findings in an urgent letter to Director Dr. Julie Gerberding about the upcoming Institute of Medicine (IOM) meeting on immunizations and autism. He wrote, "I will have to present several problematic results relating to statistical associations between the receipt of the MMR vaccine and autism."

Dr. Thompson was removed from the IOM speaker schedule just days before the meeting, and the subsequent IOM report, which omitted his findings, was cited in the Omnibus Autism decision that denied more than 5,000 families compensation for vaccine injury claims. This report, based on fraudulent data, continues to be widely

cited to exonerate vaccines' role in causing autism. Dr. Gerberding left the CDC in 2008 and became president of Merck's multi-billion dollar vaccine division, a position she still holds today.

Vaxxed is not anti-vaccine — it advocates safe vaccines. See for yourself at the David Minor Theater through June 30.

Liz Schmidt
Ashland

POLICE BRUTALITY

In his comments concerning the conviction of John Sharlow in the assault of a handcuffed prisoner, Police Chief Pete Kerns said, "Abusive and criminal behavior by an employee of this department is not tolerated."

This gives little comfort to those who have been assaulted by members of his force without cameras present to record the crimes or to those black, brown and poor people yet to be attacked.

Whether it is a lie or an indication that Kerns has lost control of his force, his statement indicates that he is not qualified to be police chief.

I will be surprised if Sharlow, after being rewarded for his crime with 16 months of paid vacation — "paid administrative leave" — will receive any jail time. It is likely he can convince a judge to grant probation if he expresses his fear of being thrown in with the general prison population along with other criminals and innocent victims of police brutality, who have been charged with resisting arrest for being beat up.

Steve Hiatt
Eugene

GOOD PEOPLE

My husband and I would like to show our appreciation for all who, even though it was not legal, have given a gift to all who travel past the I-5 bridge, to show them we really are good people.

Individuals walking by seem to have stereotyped us as the typical homeless camper. I know that most don't like the campers around here because they leave trash. We are homeless, but not by choice. Our bishop has agreed to help us out with move-in costs, only we have to find the apartment to move into.

My husband is on SSI/SSD for mental disabilities and is needing a hernia repair by his belly button. I am in the process of getting my ID which, after five-and-a-half months and requesting my marriage license, I finally was able to get my Social Security card and, if necessary, can finally work to help out. We have applied to all wait lists and are waiting, which puts us on the street. Our case manager with options is in the process of helping out with placing us on all the lists, and we are on the CWL list with Catholic Community Services for the chronically homeless of a year or greater. We have now been homeless one year and one month.

To show our appreciation, we adopted the I-5 bridge, set up our tent for the night and cleaned its garden area from some menacing weeds smothering the plants that were planted there.

One day a heavy-set gentleman with two dogs, one white and the other black, was purposely messing up the area

and throwing trash over to the river area to make it look like we were doing it.

Other patrons of the North Bank path had witnessed it with my husband, but we were getting blamed, stating that we camped there and threw trash everywhere. When we broke down our tent every morning, out of respect, we cleaned up our mess and other trash that was there.

This is our gift to all who tolerated our presence there. Thank you!

Sky and LuAnn Davini
Eugene

MINIMUM WAGE

Senator Bernie Sanders has stated that a \$15 minimum wage would affect 53 million workers. The approximate increase in wages would be more than \$60 billion yearly. It will be spent on food, rent, etc. That would stimulate the economy. All this new money would be taxed (FICA), and that tax money would go directly to fund Social Security and Medicare. The effect of the increased wages would reduce the expenses of the federal and state budgets by lowering the cost of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Food Stamps and Medicaid.

So what are the downsides of all these good benefits? Employers — such as Walmart — will have an increase in taxes. They pay half of the FICA taxes. Some people think that some people may lose their job or that some businesses may have to close. They do not have good research on that opinion, but if it does happen, that would be a downside.

So what we need is a national minimum wage of \$15 now, not phased in over



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