

# The INDEPENDENT

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## Opinion

### Things to do this season

Everyone knows how Halloween is traditionally celebrated. Here is a list of other events coming up that celebrate Fall and the Harvest season.

Community Harvest Party, Vernonia Community Church, State Ave., October 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Carnival-style games and prizes.

Open House and Harvest Carnival, Banks Christian Academy in Buxton, October 26, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Games, prizes, food (benefiting the Jr. High Washington, D.C. trip).

Fall Carnival at Vernonia First Christian Church, 410 North St., October 31, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Games, refreshments, gold fish, face painting, etc.

Mist-Birkenfeld Fall Festival, Mist gymnasium, November 3, at 6:00 p.m. Hot dogs, homemade pies, auctions and door prizes, quilt raffle and entertainment. Grab-bags for kids.

Harvest Festival at Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus, 17705 NW Springville Rd., October 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A free pumpkin (while supplies last) plus free admission to the Historical Society Museum. Hay rides, petting zoo, face painting, music, worm composting demonstration, and more. Suggested donation of \$5.

Scappoose Senior Center Holiday Bazaar, 33342 SW Meadow Dr., October 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch, snacks and drinks available in addition to handcrafted items and collectibles.

### Some quotes to end with:

The press is free to do battle against secrecy and deception in government. But the press cannot expect from the Constitution any guarantee it will succeed.

*Potter Stewart (1915-1985)*

Associate justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1958-1981  
Journalism could be described as turning one's enemies into money.

*Craig Brown*  
A British journalist  
September 28, 1990

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

*Winston Churchill*  
British politician (1874 - 1965)

## THE 41<sup>ST</sup> WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE DOUBLE TALK OCTOBER 17, 2007

IT'S THE CONGRESS'  
FAULT THAT AMERICA  
IS NOT MOVING  
AHEAD

THEY HAVE  
HAD 9 MONTHS  
TO PROVE  
THEMSELVES

I DON'T NEED  
EXCUSES ABOUT NOT  
HAVING ENOUGH MONEY  
TO SUPPORT AMERICA.

6 WEEKS SEEMS LIKE  
A REASONABLE TIME TO  
PASS A RESOLUTION.



I CAN'T DO IT  
MYSELF.

EVEN THOUGH  
I'VE HAD PLENTY  
OF YEARS  
TO DO SO.

I'VE SPENT OVER  
\$19 BILLION ON MY  
WAR!

I'D RATHER TALK  
ABOUT RODEO AND  
MY FAMILY, NOT  
ISSUES.

ASK ME SIMPLE QUESTIONS AND I'LL  
GIVE YOU SIMPLE ANSWERS...  
...IF AT ALL!

OUT OF MY MIND BY NONI ANDERSEN

### Out of my Mind

by Noni Andersen

Wow, I guess everyone in Oregon Congressman Greg Walden's 2nd district is either healthy or has health insurance. Poor people are helped by Medicaid, and senior citizens get help from Medicare.

There must not be any working people in Walden's district whose jobs don't provide health insurance, or any of those pesky self-employed folks who can't afford monthly premiums of \$1,000 or so. There must not be more than one or two families in his district whose health insurance won't cover major health problems like, perhaps, a newborn with a heart malfunction, or an injured child who needs lengthy rehab services.

Otherwise, he surely would have voted to overturn the President's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

It isn't that Walden is a fiscal conservative, after all, he has no problem with funding the war in Iraq, which costs as much in 41 days as a whole year of healthcare for 10 million children. No, it must be that the people in his district are unusually fortunate and just won't need the SCHIP coverage for an additional 36,000 Oregon children.

How fortunate for Congressman Walden, too, who already has federal health care benefits.

Speaking of Senior Citizens: in 2008, Social Security benefits will increase by 2.3%, a monthly average of \$24 per retiree. The increase in Medicare will be 3.1%, raising monthly premiums to \$96.40 regardless of whether the retiree's income is average, above average or below average.

Other odds and ends tumbling about in my thoughts are trying to get out. So, call this...

Remember the Bottom Line:

Why would anyone think that a tobacco company's ads have something to do with "fairness"? Aren't these the people who swore to tell the truth before Congress then solemnly testified that cigarettes contain nothing harmful or addictive?

Why would anyone think that timber companies are NOT going to develop their lands if they can make more money that way? Isn't that why they filed Measure 37 claims?

Why would anyone support a Congressman who opposes government health care while that same Congressman is benefiting from government health care?

If the economy keeps expanding, as we are told over and over, why aren't we taking care of our citizens? Could it be because the top one percent (1%) of our population controls 25% of our economy, while the bottom 25% of our population controls 12% of our economy?

*No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power.*

—P.J. O'Rourke (1947 - )

*The men the American public admire most extravagantly are the most daring liars; the men they detest most violently are those who try to tell them the truth.*

— H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)