

Letters

Yes on 49 to protect our property rights

To the Editor:

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure 49!

Like thousands of Oregonians we purchased a home confident that zoning regulations would protect the life style we dreamed about. In our case lot size restrictions limit building; and commercial and industrial development is banned. Then Measure 37 came along and with it the possibility that our dreams would be shattered. If you aren't in a similar situation you undoubtedly know someone who is.

Many argue that people should be able to do whatever they want with their own property and in principal I agree. However, I have a problem when it starts interfering with the property rights of others. Properties eligible for Measure 37 claims – many of which are owned by large timber companies – are bordered by properties owned by individuals like

you and me. The possibilities are endless, but if your neighbor is allowed to put in a chemical plant or slaughter house, it is going to have a negative effect on everyone in the area. Property values will probably drop and so will your quality of life.

It is time to stand up and protect the majority of Oregonians by voting Yes on Measure 49!

**Judith D. Litwin
Scappoose**

Plan now for Big Rig Christmas Parade

To the Editor:

Coming soon to Bridge Street.: Vernonia Lighted Big Rig Christmas Parade!

The time has come to put your thinking caps on and plan how you are going to decorate your best looking rig for our Lighted Big Rig Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1st, right after the lighting of the Christmas tree at City Hall. We are blessed with some of the best looking log trucks rolling

daily through our quaint little town, not to mention having fire trucks, West Oregon Electric trucks, school buses, pretty pickups and even the tallest SUV I have even seen. I went to look at it and I barely cleared the tires, and they are located here in Vernonia.

We use this parade to kick off our Holiday Season. If there is one thing all of Vernonia enjoys it's a great parade and we have some of the greatest ones here. Let's make this parade one to look forward to each year, as we do the other parades in our great town.

There will be a prize for the brightest big rig, the most original, and the best Christmas Spirit displayed. For more information, please call me at 503-429-0946.

**Carolyn Velasco
Vernonia**

Domestic violence is problem in workplace

To the Editor:

We here in Oregon have recently been riveted by a story about a teacher in Medford who was carrying a concealed weapon in her classroom. To date the debate has raged on about the rights of gun owners to carry a licensed and permitted weapon on school grounds. I would like us to take this opportunity to refocus the question.

This teacher has begun carrying a concealed weapon because, as a victim of domestic violence, she fears for her life.

We know that domestic violence doesn't stay home when a victim goes to work.

Why is that? For starters, the workplace is likely to be the one place a batterer knows to find the victim.

Beyond that, victims report an inability to concentrate on their work, they report being preoccupied with the abuse and report that many times the place they are most likely to disclose their abuse is at work.

Did you know that 70 percent of victims of domestic violence HERE IN OREGON are employed at the time of the abuse. And that 89 percent of batterers are employed at the time they perpetrate their crime.

So if you think domestic violence is not an issue for the

state's Labor Commissioner, think again.

I am launching a program here at the Bureau of Labor and Industries that addresses the rights and responsibilities of employers. My goal is to train employers to recognize the signs of abuse, to know who to contact in a crisis, and to understand what their responsibilities are under the law.

Workplace safety should be a high priority for all employers – and we at BOLI will do everything we can to bring the needed information to employers about this important topic.

Let this situation be your call to action.

When we have victims of violence and sexual assault right here in Oregon who are afraid to go to work, who resort to carrying a concealed weapon, then we need to stop and take a serious look at what we doing for those victims.

What are YOU, as an employer, doing?

Do you have a policy on domestic violence in the workplace?

Do you have a safety mitigation plan?

Have you reached out and gotten trainings for you and your employees?

Trainings and materials are available through our agency. Contact us at 971-673-0782 for our Technical Assistance for Employers hotline, register for our Employment Law Conference on December 5 and 6 where we will host a three hour panel with the state's top Domestic Violence experts, or get online at www.oregon.gov/boli to find out more about what you can do to help victims of Domestic Violence in YOUR workplace.

**Dan Gardner,
Labor Commissioner
Oregon Bureau of
Labor & Industries
Portland**

We must protect our right to bear arms

To the Editor:

I found Mr. Tom Davis's letter, dated October 24, titled 'Easy Way Out,' very interesting, and very well said!

United States Citizens have always been inclined to protect themselves and not wait around for someone else to do it for them. For over a hundred

and fifty years, they carried a gun as a means of self protection. Why else would Mr. Colt have manufactured the 'Peace Maker,' and the 'Equalizer'?

Then our Government says, "Relinquish your guns, we will protect you!" I could insert a Ha! Ha! Ha! there, but I won't! (I think John Wayne said something like that in a movie one time!) Has our Government forgotten that the Constitution of the United States implicitly states in the Second Amendment, that all U. S. Citizens have the right to Bear Arms? Our Forefathers wanted us to be able to protect ourselves from a Runaway Government, and from enemies, either foreign or domestic. We have a duty to protect ourselves and our loved ones. We must never allow our own Government or anyone else from usurping or manipulating our guns away from us.

Benjamin Franklin said, "He who trades liberty for freedom, will in the end, have neither liberty nor freedom!" I have heard many politicians lately telling the American people that they may have to give us some of their freedoms so our Government can protect us. That is not how we will be protected, but how we will be enslaved!

Let me cite you two examples: (1) In Czechoslovakia, their Government said, "We need to register your guns so that if a crime is committed, we will know what guns to check." Then when the guns were all registered they said, "You have a gun, we want it!" If you answered no, you were shot dead! (2) Then we have Poland during World War II with Germany. It was, "Lay down your arms, and surrender to mine!" The Poles did that very thing and were captured. Appeasement never works!!

We have a Government where the wolves are guarding the sheep. If they remove our defense of weaponry, and get their Police State in order, you will cow down to the authority figures with the Big Guns, and there will be no way to resist their Take Over of America! Hold onto your Gun Rights! Stay on the Defensive! It is every American's DUTY! Don't be derelict!

**Keith Carpenter
Scappoose**

Ike Says

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seasons the access will be allowed throughout the seasons. It is "hopefully" because Fred brought to my attention that a certain individual has endangered that privilege. It seems that on the night of October 20th, this individual used his pickup to tear up one of the logging roads by doing "cookies" all up and down Kauppi mainline. Fred added that continued misuse like this will indeed get the gates closed. He also pointed out that hunter access is allowed only from one hour before daylight and you must leave by one hour after sun down. The kicker with this incident is that Fred has a good idea who the culprit was. Another example of vandalism would be dirt roads on the timberlands that don't get rocked before the rainy season. In the past, the timberland owners would place piles of rock in the front of these spurs to deter people from driving down them and still allow access into the general area, but what did we see? It seemed that the piles or stumps would act more as a challenge to individuals and what was the result of that?

Yep, gates that simply don't open, and we have several areas this year that are an example of this. It was also mentioned that if the timber companies do decide to lock up the gates, it has been rumored that the names of the people responsible for the gates being locked up will appear on the sign. Of course nobody will know how the names got there, but would you want your name on that sign? That would be like getting a one way ticket out of town in my book.

Please be safe out there, there have been several people shot this year. Remember, wearing hunter orange may save your life, especially when you meet one of these guys that shoots at sounds in the brush. Surviving a gunshot wound just isn't a thing any of us want to do; not surviving is the other option. For you guys that shoot at sounds, get another sport, we don't want or need you out in the field.

**Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter**
meets monthly on the 3rd
Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call
503-428-7193 for location.