

Letters

Vernonia family shows true care and concern

To the Editor:

At a time in our world where it seems as if we focus on the negative, it is good to know that there are truly good things going on out there. I would like to share one with you that involves three of your fellow Vernonians. My daughter Katie is a student at Ecola Bible School in Cannon Beach. It is her first time away from home and although she is fairly independent, there are some circumstances that you can never fully prepare for. She and a classmate were to fly home to New Mexico, on Friday December 12th. As they neared the Portland airport she became aware of the fact that she had mistakenly brought her insurance card rather than her driver's license. Knowing they would miss their flight if they attempted to return to Cannon Beach, they gambled on security allowing them to board their plane. It became quite evident that this wasn't to be the case and by the time our daughter was released to travel by the TSA, they had missed all outgoing flights for the remainder of the day. The weather in Portland as well as throughout the coastal areas of Northwestern Oregon was rapidly deteriorating. Trees and power poles were down throughout the area so travel was obviously becoming less

advisable. Katie had contacted my wife and I by now and told us of her predicament. I can't tell you how helpless we felt at that moment. This is where the, "good," begins.

Katie's classmate Bonnie, who had driven her to the airport, had stayed on to see how things were going to work out. When it appeared that Katie wasn't going to be able to travel, she [Bonnie] called her Dad, Dan Organ and explained the situation. He immediately drove to the airport so that Bonnie, Katie and another classmate, Kelly, could follow him to the Organ home in Vernonia. Mr. Organ told Katie that he would drive along with Bonnie back to Cannon Beach for her driver's license while she and Kelly were fed and tucked safely in bed. Mr. Organ and Bonnie arrived back in Vernonia in the wee hours of the morning of December 13th after having driven through terrible weather and road conditions. At about 4:30 that same morning, Mr. Organ and Bonnie drove Katie and Kelly to the airport, where they were able to catch their flight home. What a blessing Dan, Katie and Bonnie Organ have been to our family. They had Katie to their home for Thanksgiving, which may not seem like a big deal, but to us it was. And the sacrifices made the night of December 12th were just awesome. The last thing a parent wants to feel is

total helplessness when it comes to a situation their child is in. We all hope that someone will step in and do the things that we as parents would do if we could. That is exactly what the Organ family did for us. When we couldn't be there to take care of our child, someone did. I believe that God always puts people in just the right place, at just the right time and in this case it was the Organ family. These folks are a true blessing to us and our daughter. Vernonia can be glad to know that such citizens grace their town.

Greg and Barbara Youngs
Silver City, New Mexico

It's hard to survive on \$2.3 million a week

To the Editor:

I was interested to see the column by Pat Zimmerman on Medicare in last Wednesday's paper (*South County Spotlight*). In that column she commented somewhat critically that the boss of one of our private Medicare providers makes \$124,800,000 a year in salary. I don't know, however, what the complaint is all about. He's probably got a mortgage to pay out of that and electric and gas bills just like the rest of us. And when you work the arithmetic \$124.8 million a year is only \$10,333,000 a month and \$2,384,000 a week and who can live on that? Think of it, what would you do if you had to get along on just \$339,726 a day? Barely just 3 squares and a cup of coffee. I mean if you work it out for a regular job of 40 hours a week it only comes out to \$62,000 an hour. What'll that get you? It ain't like it's any big deal. \$124.8 million a year is only the equivalent of a year's pay for 3,543 families making \$35,000 a year. I mean, gee whiz, wouldn't you rather pay more for health care so this poor fella and his friends can make this kind of money?

Yours truly,

Mike Sheehan
Scappoose

Auto makers don't deserve a bailout

To the Editor:

As the disgraced Detroit three auto makers are asking Congress for tens of billions of

taxpayer dollars, we should remember the last several billion that we gave the industry, and the outcome of it. In the 1990s, the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles worked to make 80+ miles per gallon cars and allowed for communications amongst scientists between the big three automakers to help speed that process along.

The Partnership was a huge success, with three 70+ miles per gallon prototypes. General Motors had the Precept, a 5-seat sedan with ample trunk space, with one version getting 108 miles per gallon equivalent running on hydrogen. Ford had the Prodigy getting 72 miles per gallon, and Daimler-Chrysler also had a 72 miles per gallon vehicle. Taxpayers were proud that their billions were not wasted, and expected these vehicles on the market.

But none of the automakers put any of these vehicles into production, or anything similar. Instead, they chose gas-guzzling SUVs, the epitome of stupidity from a climate change and energy conservation perspective. Using slick ads to push their behemoth vehicles, the automakers are among the biggest culprits in the fast rise in greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

What happened to the efficient vehicles? The failure to incorporate that technology was also a major cause of our economic collapse. With the rise in gas prices this past summer, the values of SUVs plummeted, and for many, their gas guzzlers are now worth less than the loan they have on them.

Why should we give a bailout now, when the automakers are the ones who put themselves into the crisis they are in through their own idiocy? Why don't they dust off these efficient vehicles and put them into production, something both our wallets and our planet could have used a decade ago?

They say those who forget history are bound to repeat it. After the foolish follies of the

auto industries, in pushing gas guzzlers on the American public (along with tax breaks that they manipulated through Congress), why should we bail them out?

What we need is the massive investment in mass transit and high speed passenger rail: a much better way to travel with exponential fuel savings compared to the most efficient vehicles.

Chad Kister
Nelsonville, Ohio

"Thanks" to thief

To the Editor:

To whom it may concern; Thanks a lot for swiping the full 5-gallon gas can that was being used to run the generator at the Vernonia Senior Center.

The Vernonia Senior Center

Photo not a surprise, it was typical action

To the Editor:

In reference to the picture on page 4 of *The Independent* newspaper, dated 12-4-08, this is no surprise regarding this person's actions. She will do anything she can to slander, intimidate, humiliate or lie about anyone who does not follow her ignorance. This person that is supposed to represent our city is a disgrace to our city and the many fine people who have worked so hard to build what we have left. This person is too busy blaming everyone for her mistakes instead of taking responsibility for herself. She is good at taking sides without knowing what she is talking about. She will read a lying, derogatory letter about an honorable citizen without knowing what she is talking about and then legislate every citizen's 1st Amendment rights away so she can protect herself and her lying so called slime that is no longer here. A BIG THANKS to Mr. Jim Johnson for taking care of this situation.

An honorable citizen,

Leonard Simmons
Vernonia

Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters that include personal attacks on private citizens. Because of space limitations, preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

Ike Says . . .

From page 2

yards and, sure enough, the bull was standing in one of the few openings in the young forest. I hit him a couple more times and soon it was apparent he was mine. The rest of the herd bolted down through the reprod to the creek in the bottom; later they made their way out through another new clear-cut and there were no more bulls with them. I field dressed the bull, then headed back home. My good friend, Jim King, volunteered to help pack the bull the next day and we actually had a good time packing the bull the two miles back to the pickup. Learning to take your time and carry lighter loads really makes packing more enjoyable, something I think many hunters are missing in this sport called elk hunting.

With most big game seasons now closed, it is the duck and goose hunters who are out in force and they love this snowy, rainy, nasty weather. Duck hunters also like to band together to support their sport and, coming in January, is the next Ducks Unlimited fundraiser. The Sunset chapter of Ducks Unlimited will hold their fifth annual event on January 24th at 4:30 p.m. at the Verboort Visitation Parish. The contact person for the event is Robbi Porter at 503-528-0463. Get your tickets early, they usually sell out.

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