

Free admission to Zoo on January 19

After suffering through a blustery two months, the Oregon Zoo invites families to venture out of their homes and enjoy a free day on Monday, January 19.

"Schools are out on Martin Luther King Day and with the state of the economy weighing heavy on people's hearts and minds, we thought families might enjoy visiting us for free during this important holiday," said Tony Vecchio, zoo director.

From polar bears in the frigid Arctic to elephants in the forests of Asia, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day visitors can see animals from around the world in an afternoon at their zoo. Visitors can trek through the tropics amid the sounds of birds and monkeys. They can travel through the African savanna, where giraffes, zebras, hippos and rhinos graze. They

can visit the penguins of Peru and come nose to nose with the bald eagles, black bears and cougars of the Great Northwest. They can even visit the charismatic animals of Asia such as Amur tigers, Malayan sun bears, and warty and babirusa pigs.

"Our hope is to make the zoo accessible to all Oregonians and Washingtonians," said Vecchio. "Through discounted days like MLK Day and our Second Tuesday program held every month, we strive for as many visitors as possible to make emotional connections with animals."

The zoo is a service of Metro and is dedicated to its mission to inspire the community to create a better future for wildlife. Committed to conservation, the zoo is currently working to save endangered California con-

dors, Washington's pygmy rabbits, Oregon silverspot butterflies, western pond turtles, Oregon spotted frogs and Kincaid's lupine. Other projects include studies on black rhinos, Asian elephants, polar bears and bats.

The zoo opens at 9:00 a.m. daily and is located just off Highway 26. The zoo is also accessible by MAX light rail line. General admission is \$9.75 (12-64), seniors \$8.25 (65+), children \$6.75 (3-11), and infants 2 and under are free; 25 cents of the admission price helps fund regional conservation projects through the zoo's Future for Wildlife program. A parking fee of \$2 per car is also required. Additional information is available at www.oregonzoo.org or by calling 503-226-1561.

New labor rules apply to breaks

From page 5

cumstances of the work prevent the employee from being relieved of all duty." BOLI had never interpreted the "nature or circumstances" exception to apply on an on-going and continuous basis, but the language had created confusion among some employers. Additionally, it was argued that certain job functions didn't permit an employee to be "relieved of all duty" and that the nature of some work necessitates employees being on-call during a meal period.

Recognizing that certain job functions didn't permit an employee to be "relieved of all duty" and that the nature of some work necessitates employees being on-call during a meal period, but also that employees should always be provided adequate time to rest and

consume a meal, the Committee was convened to make recommendations regarding the circumstances under which an employer should not be required to completely relieve an employee of duties during a meal period, and whether the 20-minute paid "industry practice/custom" exception should be retained.

The main provisions of the new rule take effect immediately and employers claiming the undue hardship exemption will be required to provide employees with notice on a form prescribed by BOLI beginning March 16, 2009. Additional information regarding the rule, the recommendations of the advisory committee, and compliance with the rule can be found on the Bureau's website, or by calling 971-673-0761.

Letters

From page 3

Thanks for wonderful food box donations

To The Editor:

Thank you, Vernonia, for donating towards the Holiday Food Boxes. Donations came from all directions – businesses, individuals, churches! It was amazing! You funded the entire cost of the food boxes. Thank you! Certainly this brightened over 500 people's Christmas holiday!

Special thanks to Sentry Market for donating 96 turkeys,

and then storing all of them until recipients came and picked them up with vouchers. Sentry also allowed recipients to use vouchers to redeem their fresh potatoes in the same way. Thanks, so much! It saved us a great deal of work to do it this way.

Some people donated funds, some gave through the check stand giving at Sentry, and many gave food. Because of your donations, Vernonia Cares Food Bank was able to give 200 holiday food boxes without expending any of the food bank's general funds.

Thanks, also, to the volunteers who worked to put the boxes together and those who delivered the food boxes to those people who were stranded due to the weather. I've always said that the day we give out the Holiday Food Boxes is the best day of the year! Thanks for making that wonderful day possible, Vernonia.

**Sandy Welch, Exec. Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank**

Turkey herders thank wonderful response

To The Editor:

Dear Citizens of Vernonia: This year's Turkey Drive for the Vernonia Cares Christmas Food Boxes has been very successful. Thank you one and all!!

You came forward with turkeys and cash donations to make it all come together. Many of you came forward with a \$30.00 donation to sponsor an entire Christmas food box

for a family, or a \$10.00 donation for a turkey purchase. The dollar savings in meat products allows Vernonia Cares to stretch their funds in to the New Year for clients. This time of year is difficult for all families as the flexible budget item for everyone is the food category.

Vernonia Sentry and all employees have been instrumental to the success this year by accepting and storing check stand donations. In addition, the donation of 100 turkeys by Sentry and their storage at the store is greatly appreciated! The ability to store that volume of meat has always been one of the biggest challenges of this effort. Thank you Vernonia Sentry!!

The sixth annual Turkey Drive was a tremendous success!! Thank you all and to all a Happy New Year!!

**Pat and Bob Stacklie, and
The Turkey Herders
of Vernonia**

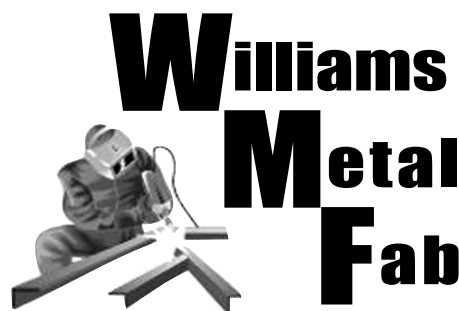
Comments personal, instead of factual

To The Editor:

On Dec 1st, my husband and I attended the Columbia County Board of Commissioner public hearing regarding the request for a zone change on behalf of Tim and Michelle Bero and the 27.8 acres that they own near the airport. The hearing was to hear "new" testimony only.

There were many things said in this meeting, some of it redundant, some of it inaccurate, some if it very personal, and some if it held merit. At the end of the meeting Tim and Michelle Bero were given time to rebut testimony given from the opposing side. Their Lawyer Mr. Mark Greenfield and business associate Mr. Glomb from Poland both gave a brief rebuttal to clarify a few mistakes made in the information provided by their opponents, but Tim and Michelle offered no rebuttal. I was surprised because they clearly had much more they could have added to clear up some very obvious misinformed statements and the assumptions made. I asked Tim and Michelle why they did not stand up and correct the incorrect information that was given, and they simply replied

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