

Letters

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posed LNG terminals.

The state Attorney General has weighed in on this bill, saying it will have a "profound impact on property rights" – and seizure – in Oregon. Political groups on both ends of the spectrum oppose this bill. Witt managed to get it through the first step of the legislative process; you might want to let him know what you think of his action.

Witt's second bill is HB2470, "Relating to Dogs". It's an attempt to fix the fact that dog kennels in Oregon are essentially unregulated at the state level. You might think this is a good idea...but wait till you see the details.

This bill allows breeders to have 50 sexually intact dogs that are two years of age or older. They can have an unlimited number of younger dogs, but they have to keep some records about them. They also can have an unlimited number of dogs that are not sexually intact. Even these limits don't apply to boarding kennels – they can have an unlimited number, as long as the average stay at the facility is less than 30 days. The bill does require that a facility that has 75 dogs have one person on site for 8 hours each day!

I love dogs – we currently have two rescue Great Danes. But the thought of 75 dogs living next door, with only one person there for 8 hours a day, terrifies me. This bill is worse

than useless. It will specifically legalize these kennels, making it harder for neighbors to prevent new ones or fight abuses caused by existing ones. In Columbia Co., as anyone who's followed the five year saga of the local kennel ordinance knows, there is essentially no kennel regulation.

Witt can be reached at 1-503-986-1431; rep.bradwitt@state.or.us .

**Pat Zimmerman
Scappoose**

Dealerships are not manufacturer's cost

To the Editor:

For several months we have been bombarded with information about the future of General Motors and Chrysler. Every source of media has had a hand in disseminating this subject. During all this activity one misconception has been repeated so many times that it has been mistakenly accepted as the truth. From many respected news publications, to the President's Auto Task Force to the person who watches the news in the morning over a cup of coffee have all bought into this notion that dealers create a cost burden to the manufacturers. This is untrue and harmful to our nation's franchised automobile dealers who are in actuality independent business owners just like the mom and pop stores in your neighborhood.

The President's Auto Task Force is relying on this misconception to force even more rapid dealer reductions at GM and Chrysler. These dealers do not create a cost burden to the manufacturer, in fact they are the first step to profitability. Our nation's new car dealers provide the manufacturer more than 90 percent of their revenue each year, and drive competitive pricing in the marketplace. The dealerships in your neighborhood are not manufacturer owned, they are privately owned by people who pay for the land, building, payroll for their employees, every single car you see on the lot, and even the big manufacturer sign out front. Essentially, dealerships buy their cars from the manufacturer the same way you buy your car from a dealership.

By allowing this misconception to go on, the risk is adding more people without jobs to an already surmounting unemployment number. Our nation's GM and Chrysler dealerships today employ almost 500,000 people and the Task Force proposals would require GM and Chrysler to eliminate as many as 3,600 dealerships and almost 190,000 jobs.

The bottom line is that closing dealerships is ineffective in solving GM and Chrysler's problems. Conversely, this will negatively affect thousands of people right here in Oregon and across the nation, from these independent businesses, to their employees, from the vendors that serve them, to the communities they support. Our nation does not need further erosion of employment, it needs recovery.

Greg Remensperger
Executive Vice President
Oregon Auto Dealers Ass'n

To Your Health!

From page 8

spirit, commitment and integrity of Laura Nichols, PA-C. Impersonal care, fast-paced clinics and 10-minute visits have the opposite outcome. I believe, and research has demonstrated, that patients are healthier, more compliant and motivated when they have a good relationship with their healthcare provider and continuity of care. Let's hope that more providers recognize the part of practicing the art of medicine that makes it rewarding and about the patient, not just the bottom line. We can only hope for more Lauras in the world and Health Providers who are committed to healthcare based on genuine concerns for a patient's well-being instead of "bottom line" medicine.

As usual, we welcome your questions and feedback. You can contact us at To Your Health c/o The Independent or, you can email us at health @the-independent.net.

Reference: *Is "Busy" Good* by Jean Antonucci, MD.

Salem Scene

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will be increased over the life of the tires, fuel consumption and exhaust will be reduced and environmental benefits enhanced without unduly burdening either tire distributors or consumers.

I am pleased to report that I have already begun meeting with the bill's proponents to begin erecting sideboards around the bill's tire and several other provisions. To date, the discussions have been very encouraging.

Attention Veterans...

Hearings have been held for HB 3480, which authorizes the Oregon Military Department to make payments to members of the Oregon National Guard who were exposed to hexavalent chromium while serving at the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant in Basra, Iraq, in 2003. Hexavalent chromium is a known carcinogen, and several soldiers have fallen ill because of it.

Approximately 286 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 162nd Division, have been notified by letter of the exposure and its hazards, however fewer than 20 guardsmen have responded,

and 40 letters were returned unopened. Some of these soldiers came from the St. Helens, Hillsboro, Gresham and McMinnville areas. If you know of anyone who served at that time in Basra, Iraq, please pass this information along to them. An article that ran in *The Oregonian* that more fully describes the urgency of this situation, is available on the Internet at: http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/oregon_veteran_disabled_by_ira.html

Revenue Forecast...

The Legislature received the May 15th revenue forecast, the report that serves as the basis for the state budget. It showed that we have \$4.2 billion less than the amount needed to maintain services such as education, health care and public safety at their current level. The legislature will have to use \$351 million dollars from state reserves to balance the current budget, which has only six weeks remaining, meaning there will be less in savings to patch a hole of over \$3.8 billion for the next budget. The state legislature, unlike the federal government, must pass a balanced budget. This means that any shortfall must be filled either with cuts or more revenue. To fill the current shortfall of around 25% will take a balanced approach of mostly cuts, our state reserves and asking big corporations and households making over \$250,000 a year to contribute a little bit more. I will keep you posted as we gather more information.



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