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Letters

Better training, yes; more officers, no

To the Editor:
 This letter is in response to the June 18, 2009, Letter to the Editor entitled, "Questions are okay, but know the facts."

At the time this letter was being written, June 21, at 3:15 p.m., I called the local police station and dispatch to talk to an officer and surprisingly none were on duty? We employ 4, and they want to employ another officer? My question is why?

I have lived in this community now for 6 years and as of today with the above information strongly believe we do not need another officer in our town!

Over the past several months I have called our local law enforcement to report speeding up and down Rose Avenue heading towards Highway 47 and no officer has responded. I have been told they are too busy, but yet they are sitting at the station doing what? But when someone wants to file a false police report, they go running and without conducting a thorough in-

vestigation and obtaining all of the facts, they write their reports and forward to the D.A.

The writer of the letter goes on to state that his children were subject to threats and verbal abuse while living in the community, what about the children and adults that live in this community that have been threatened and verbally abused by our local law enforcement? Or threatened to have our drug dog let loose if they don't cooperate? My children have been subjected to this threat several times, why do they need to be so aggressive? We are a small town and do not need such aggressive police tactics like big cities!

And, why should it matter how many times police have responded to someone's home as the writer stated when speaking of another writer of another letter? How is that relevant to the duties of our law enforcement?

Our tax dollars should be going to better train the officers we do have and not to employing another one or buy new vehicles. Let's get real now when

today no officer was on duty when I called, why in the world do we need another one?

**Elaina Brasure
 Vernonia**

Don't be careless with your fishing gear

To the Editor:

Fishing at Vernonia Lake can be fun, peaceful and relaxing. When I fish, I make sure nothing is left behind, please can't you? When I walk around the lake I wish I didn't feel the need to continually stop and pick up after negligent fisher people. Please, when you are finished fishing make sure that you don't leave fishing tackle behind. In the walking path I have found tackle with hooks attached, those do wonders for dog paws. And on my morning walk today I found a bird hanging from the lamp post high above our Welcome to Vernonia sign in front of the lake entrance. It saddens my heart to think of what that poor little bird went through as it fought to its death to free itself from someone's fishing line. Please be-

have responsibly with your fishing gear. Thanks ever so much.

**Roxana Sherman-Heath
 Vernonia**

Reward offered for bike stolen from park

To the Editor:

I can't believe it! Someone cut the chain holding my grandson's bike that was chained to a trailer at Anderson Park and took it. My grandson, D.J. Grady, is 12 years old. Why would someone steal a young boy's bike? It was a tan Redline bike, with new red sprocket, chain, and handle bar grips. It also had new tires, a new seat, and white pedals. I feel like who ever took it should return it without question, but we will offer a reward for the bike's return, because we do want it back, please. Please don't disappoint me anymore than you already have. If you have any knowledge of this theft, please let me know.

**Ilene Grady
 Vernonia**

Professional auto service in Vernonia

To the Editor:

Several weeks ago my pickup was damaged in an out-of-town hit & run incident. I wanted to have it repaired as quickly as possible and was, of course, interested in a professional job for the restoration. After visiting with Gary Meyer at Meyer's Auto Body, I decided to put my pickup in his shop. The damage was to one whole side and involved two-tone paint, a vehicle decal emblem and minor hood damage.

Gary Meyer and his crew of excellent craftsmen not only repaired the vehicle, but when it was returned to me it looked like it just came off the showroom when it was first purchased.

See Letters, page 22

An Oregon Perspective

By Senator Jeff Merkley



Developing Real Health Care Reform

Our nation faces a number of daunting challenges: high unemployment, skyrocketing foreclosures, and a credit freeze which is crippling businesses. Each of them is contributing to another long-simmering crisis: the unavailability and unaffordability of health care. Forty-seven million Americans do not have health insurance and millions more are under-insured. Seniors have to pick and choose which medicines they can afford and people skip needed medical visits because they can't afford the payments. Folks who have health insurance are afraid of losing it and people without insurance are afraid of getting sick. We need a better way.

Over the last several months I've been working nonstop with my colleagues on the Senate Health Committee to develop legislation that will provide affordable, quality health care for every American.

The plan we are working on will expand access to health care, bring down costs and invest in prevention, while ensuring that seniors and the disabled are not left behind.

First, I firmly believe that Americans should have a choice of either keeping their existing

coverage or choosing a public option that would provide affordable health care coverage. A public option must be included in plans for reform because it will reduce costs, encourage competition and keep insurance companies honest.

Second, we need to spend our health care dollars more wisely. America spends more than any other industrialized nation on health care, but those dollars are not translating into better outcomes for patients. One sure way to reduce costs for families, businesses, and government is to invest in prevention. By making sure that every American has access to preventive care, we can catch diseases early and prevent financial hardship. We also need to invest in disease management, affordable prescription drugs, and wellness strategies like exercise and healthy school lunches.

Finally, one of my biggest concerns is that we look out for seniors and disabled Americans. Long-term care has become prohibitively expensive for many folks and I've spoken to Oregonians all over the state who are struggling to cover sky-high costs for their family members. Americans should not have to worry about their parent or grandparent receiving the quality care they deserve as they get older.

Doing nothing is not an option. We must seize this extraordinary opportunity to pass real health care reform and help improve the health of our citizens by investing in prevention. President Obama has made health care reform a priority and I'm confident that we can work together to provide coverage for all Americans.

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.