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Letters

Future transplant is closer with your help

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to say thank you to all the people that helped me and are helping me raise the funds I need for my kidney transplant. I would like to thank the businesses that have allowed me to put my donation cans in their place of business and the people filling them. I would also like to thank True Value for donating the fishing pole that was raffled off on Sunday, Aug. 9th. The winner of the fishing pole was Teri Willard.

Again, I would just like to thank everyone that helped me raise the funds.

Sincerely,

Darrold Mushatt
Vernonia

Thanks for helping us help those in need

To the Editor:

Thanks to all the people who supported Vernonia Cares Food Bank recently. Some enjoyed our Jamboree Breakfast, others bought luscious coated almonds or other nuts through the Stumptown Nuts concession stand and others entered the Bear Creek Run/Walk event. These fundraisers are an important part of keeping the food bank open for over 400 people per month who need grocery assistance. Thanks to all the volunteers who efficiently led these projects (Rosie Mccoy, Steve Soma and Leticia Yniguez, and Maria Lemay) and also to all

the “worker bees” who manned the events.

Sandy Welch, Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank

Objection to hospital based on information

To the Editor:

Commissioner [Rita] Bernhard made a comment last Thursday (August 13) at the public meeting held at the library in St. Helens regarding the proposed medical facility, the public hearing was sponsored by the certificate of needs people from the state of Oregon, who were taking testimony from the public regarding the issue, all comments were accepted. Commissioner Bernhard accused the people that were there speaking against the current proposal for the medical facility as radicals. Let me address Commissioner Bernhard’s comments, as misguided as they were.

Commissioner Bernhard evidently does not believe in the rights for all guaranteed under the Constitution as she displayed by her outrageous comments, she only supports comments or opinions if they favored the proposal. As a citizen of this United States it is my right as well as the rights of every single person in this land to voice their opinion or give oral or written testimony at public hearings for or against any issue that is before them. Evidently Commissioner Bernhard needs a class in basic civics.

As I sat through the meeting I respectfully listened to everyone’s verbal testimony, even to

those individuals whom my opinion differed. I did not have to resort to personal demeaning of my peers to support my objection to the medical facility’s current proposal or try to influence the people from the state with childish rhetoric, rhetoric that made Commissioner Bernhard look absolutely ignorant and witless.

I presented factual testimony against the proposal such as; the reason the facility did not achieve Critical Access status, plain and simple the hospital board FAILED to fill out the application knocking them out of the Sunset clause, their ineptness cost the taxpayers in the Health District millions in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements, passing these shortfall costs on to the taxpayers. This one example, of many simple failures proves this board is not qualified to handle the business of a medical facility or be in charge of taxpayer funds. Sending a lobbyist to Washington, DC multiple times to try and literally get an Act of Congress to change the rules for critical access designation, all at your expense.

Or the fact the health district has been transferring revenue collected from the levy into public health, first by paying off the note on the public health building over \$160,000.00. Then substantial amounts over the years, and as much as \$162,914.00 in 2009, while the levy clearly stated no money would go to public health. I personally find these actions deplorable. The county funds public health, the state funds public health, the federal government funds public health, how many times do taxpayers in the health district have to fund public health? So far we are paying into public health 4 times.

The county commissioners helped the health district place the Critical Access measure on the ballot through referendum, no signature collecting required. The commissioners will not take into consideration the fact that the people are not getting what they voted for and take the issue back to the voters, let the voters decide on how they want their money spent. I think in the best interest of the taxpayer this should happen. Right now the proposed

hospital jumped from \$10-11 million to build to nearly \$28 million, with a final cost of about \$44 million with the levy of 38 cents going on forever. Plus the lack of operating funds and where do you think those funds are going to come from? I think the taxpayers are being duped Commissioner Bernhard you may call people in opposition radicals, but I call them concerned taxpayers.

Tammy Maygra
Deer Island

Bus was well stuffed with school supplies

To the Editor:

Thanks for helping “Stuff the Bus”.

A big thank you to Columbia River PUD, Wauna Federal Credit Union, St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union, Country Insurance and Financial Services, West Oregon Electric, and Sentry Market for accepting donations for our 4th annual “Stuff the Bus” event. We also want to thank all of the generous community members who dropped off supplies. Although we were not able to have buses available at all of the drop sites the boxes with “Stuff the Bus” signs filled up quickly with school supplies. Thank you also to those who called to volunteer to help pick-up, sort and deliver these supplies.

Last year, county-wide, we were able to provide school supplies to over 600 students. We anticipate an even greater need for supplies this year. We could not help meet this need without the community support.

This is how we “Live United”, by working together to make a difference in the lives of members of our community.

Kathye Beck
Executive Director
United Way of Columbia County

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 . . .

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cided to wait out the antelope and soon, as I figured they would, they gained their feet and started feeding out of my way. My goal was to sneak over the crest where they were bedded and work my way down and around the rim area where we had seen the two bucks the day before. I had almost reached the crest of the ridge line when three Does burst out across the ridge higher up and sped on to the main ridge. Hmm, I hadn’t seen them; I wondered what else was over this ridge? As soon as I peeked over the top I could see the

black horns of an antelope, I sat down, took off my pack, pulled out my shooting sticks and then my camera. This had become my routine with each buck that I had snuck up on. I took a couple more peeks with the binoculars and thought to myself, this just might be the buck that will go home with me. I grabbed the camera and took a couple of photos of what turned out to be four Does and three bucks. I settled in for what I expected would be the antelope feeding out of the little basin they were in and up onto a very open hillside where there

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