

Letters

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my poor son, who was in considerable pain, regardless of the Tylenol/Advil doses.

By Monday, I decided I'd had enough and called the clinic to try to make Andrew an appointment with our regular doctor. No surprise, I was told there was no room to fit me in. I then called the clinic in Fredonia, and made an appointment there. At 3 p.m., Dr. Mark Overas examined my son, and while he backed up Dr. Burst's diagnosis, he was also very quick to recommend and prescribe not only some lidocaine to numb Andrew's pain, but also some antivirals to help prevent future recurrences.

He took time with me, explained to me exactly what was wrong with Drew, and how to keep him comfortable until he was over his illness.

I have never been so disillusioned with a doctor in my life as I was after the way my kids and I were treated by Dr. Burst. He was rude, inconsiderate, and it honestly felt like he just couldn't be bothered to take the time to help my son. Is this really the kind of medical care we are to expect from our hospital?

After talking to a friend of mine, I was informed that my complaint is not the only one to have been lodged against the care received in the ER. I urge anyone else who has had a bad experience to come forward and speak up. It's time we demand the medical care we deserve!

**Sincerely,
Beth Johnson**

Part 1-Snow removal and maintenance on roads across federally managed lands in Kane County

Dear Editor:

The Kane County Commission wants to assure the traveling public that it is keeping local roads in Kane County safe for winter travel as legal resolution of the jurisdiction of roads across federally managed lands works its way through the courts. We are also responding to requests for more information on the roads issue.

Part 1 - snow removal from roads across federally managed lands

It became apparent to the county that significant public safety dangers would develop during snowstorms this winter if federal land managers failed to maintain roads they claim to administer.

County road crews could not reach county road segments be-

yond federal road segments; residents and visitors would become trapped during winter storms. Ranchers would not be able to reach livestock and would be exposed to dangerous conditions.

During the first snowstorm, the county was unable to make local travel safe because of the refusal of federal land managers to perform any snow removal on federally administered roads. Numerous dangerous road conditions were reported to the county.

The county requested a meeting with federal land managers to address these dangerous conditions, but local land managers declined to meet with the commission.

After federal land managers failed to meet to discuss the public safety dangers, the commission developed a Snow Removal Policy for Public Health, Safety and Welfare, Emergencies and Search and Rescue, as opposed to performing road maintenance on roads across federally managed lands.

County road crews went out and removed snow from frequently traveled roads and other roads with specific public safety threats irrespective of highway jurisdiction. The county intends to continue its public safety snow removal policy throughout the winter.

It is important to consider that the county created a way to make the roads safe for the traveling public because protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizenry is of paramount importance to county officials.

Federal land managers have refused to put a blade on a road they claim to be under federal administration and jurisdiction, in spite of the serious public safety dangers during our first winter snowstorms.

It is gratifying that after the county's letter to Secretary Kempthorne, the county's public safety snow removal actions, and the issuance of a press release to the media, the BLM is offering to meet with the commission.

The commission hopes that we will be able to truly consider the core issue of highway jurisdiction and develop the appropriate resolution to the longstanding controversy over who owns roads across federally managed lands.

The county will post highway jurisdiction and snow removal information on the county's website to keep the public informed of the status of county roads across federally managed lands.

**Mark Habbeshaw
Kane County Commissioner**

Part 2 - the issue of jurisdiction of roads across federally managed lands will appear in next week's issue.

Community theater anyone?

Dear Editor:

The Good-Time Community Theater is gearing up for a production of the Red Door Cafe, a spoofy western musical comedy. This is an opportunity to try out your acting ability and have a lot of fun.

Qualifications are a desire to act and a commitment to learn lines and show up two times a week for rehearsals. We'll rehearse twice a week throughout March and part of April for a show at the end of April.

If you're interested, e-mail me at bobbichaney@kanab.net or call 644-5744 for more information. Don't be shy. Everyone's welcome.

Bobbi Chaney

Freedom from religion

Dear Editor:

My faith is important to me. I feel fortunate and am thankful to live in, and be a citizen of the USA, where my freedom to worship and believe what I hold sacred is protected.

However, there are many carrot-dangling minister-types hoping I will abandon the truth and join their flock. They promise earthly rewards and a better afterlife if I submit, accept the righteousness they offer, and observe the guiding principles.

Pray to this strand of beads. Speak in tongues. Observe dietary restrictions. Grow a beard. Display this symbol. Tithe. Worship this modern day mortal. Relinquish worldly possessions. Just have faith. Take up serpents. Regard this group as inferior. Reject modern medicine; rather, pray for divine healing.

Don't think about the issues. Just accept the clergy-cooked spoon-feeding! Bear testimony. Burn suspected witches. Read these scriptures. Burn these books. Witness to indigenous people with cheap parlor tricks and snake oil to disband their civilizations.

Eventually, they contradict one another. Praise His name, but do not write His name. Ladies, do not cut your hair; no, shave your head and wear a wig. Focus on the birth. No, focus on the death. No, focus on the resurrection. Ornament yourself with this jewelry; no, dress plainly and be modest. Eat fish on Fridays; but nothing with a shell. Turn the other cheek; no, join His army.

I am grateful the freedom of religion includes the freedom from religion. I am not required

to convert to any of these faiths, nor practice them. I am exempt. I can dismiss them as deceit, ignorance at best.

When will the charlatans and their lost sheep learn? It is within my church the truth resides. It is my clergy whom speaks on behalf of Him. My crusade is to lead all of them to salvation, something of which their false prophets know nothing.

**Sincerely,
Stephen Jeffrey Watson
Salt Lake City**

Public commentary on Public Health Clinic construction

Dear Editor:

Public health is a subject very dear to my heart. I strongly support public health and often feel that it is vastly under funded. However, the proposed million dollar construction of a new public health facility in this county at this time is very troubling. Property taxes have rocketed upwards in a time when job loss and recession are affecting everyone. We would all love new facilities for our various businesses, but now is simply not the time.

Public Health facilities in big cities and rural areas seem to function just fine without million dollar buildings being built at the expense of local taxpayers.

The recent publication of taxes in arrears and penalties associated with late payment of taxes was sobering. Over 2900 individuals and businesses had either not paid 2008 taxes or had some sort of penalty attached to late payment of taxes. This statistic seems like a lot of people for a county that touts only a population of between 6200 and 6500.

It may verify the fact that individuals and small businesses have been taxed beyond their capability of paying. There are many, many retired people, low-income earners, and others in this county who simply cannot stand another property tax hike. In looking at these statistics, along with the outcry over tax hikes, Kane County citizens simply do not need another burden or poor decision in our county budgeting process and our elected officials need to start listening to their constituents.

I would love to see construction of a brand new public health facility, but NOT until the present budget has been closely audited and not if it means future tax hikes, and certainly not when the entire

country may be facing not only a recession but a looming depression that could last for years.

Please consider alternatives to building a brand new facility. Tighten your belts and cut budgets accordingly. There needs to be some serious, serious study of what is truly needed during these very upsetting and troubling times.

Once more, now is not the moment to add more financial burden to our already struggling county budget. That's just the way it is.

Thank you for your time.

**Patricia R. Spanne
Kanab**

Family preparedness

Dear Editor

Kane County Emergency Services, in conjunction with Southwest Regional Health Department, is distributing a booklet to each home in Kane County. It contains emergency information for your family. The booklets are being distributed door to door by the students from Abundant Life Academy.

The health department paid for the printing, so please don't just discard the booklet without reviewing it. Please, take a moment and read through the information and keep the booklet where you can refer to it in an emergency. Any questions, please call Kane County Emergency Services at 644-4995.

**Thank you,
Alan Alldredge**

Song of peace

Dear Editor:

Eight long years of the "War President"; it is time for visions of peace. Visualize a world free of anger, war and hate.

Peace is a state of mind, though without personal transformation the people of the world will forever be locked in conflict.

If we foster community health and goodwill, innovation, self-discovery and spiritual purpose, we are well on the way to creating peace.

War is unthinkable in a society of autonomous people who have discovered the connectedness of all humanity.

Peace is a change of heart, everyone trusting, sharing and caring for each other. As peace settles on earth the hungry will be fed and all people will live together in harmony.

My song for a new year is a song of peace for those who have had enough of violence and war.

Have a prosperous new year!

**Ron Lowe
Nevada City, CA**