

Lake County RECORD-BEE

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Letters to the Editor

Provinsalia seems misguided for the times

"Damn the torpedoes! Full steam ahead!" were the words of Union Army naval officer, David Farragut in 1864 as he moved through the heavily mined Mobile Bay, center of the Confederate blockade. (Mines at that time were known as torpedoes.)

Farragut's quote occurred to me after Clearlake's Planning Commission members expressed their enthusiasm for the idea of the proposed Provinsalia development which would become the largest housing project in the history of our city. This enthusiasm was in spite of the prior Dec. 2 Planning Commission meeting in which the bulk of the public comment articulately, passionately, and wisely voiced its opposition to building this development. Never mind the torpedoes of our time:

- 1: severe local and regional drought (golf courses need incredible water)
- 2: economic decline (we hope "collapse" is too strong a word)
- 3: environmental decay
- 4: scarce (and getting scarcer) natural resources
- 5: home loan failures at record highs

I can understand our city's leaders wanting to raise our standard of living here in Clearlake at least to the level of other Lake County towns; however, I believe a Provinsalia would backfire at this point in history in that attempt. We would be better to promote the sale and renovation of our present numerous vacant homes.

I suggest leaders promote environmentally friendly cottage industries, private industry, drug/alcohol counseling, and education for our city. Continue to improve the streets we have rather than build new ones. We can improve our quality of life here in Clearlake without desecrating our wild spaces.

Farragut seemed to luck out in that he made it through Mobile Bay; however, that is where the analogy breaks down. I predict we may not be so lucky. This project could be a blight on our city, and our children will ask, "What were they thinking?"

Barbara Christwitz
 Clearlake

Thanks for coverage of Lost Boys in the paper

First off I want to thank the *Record-Bee* and Denise Rockenstein about her article Tuesday regarding the Lost Boys concert at Konocti Harbor Inn. When I read it I told my wife that we have to go and I invited our 12-year-old neighbor boy, who is in the band at Kelseyville Middle school, to attend with us who plays drums.

What a joy this was for us to attend this concert and be mesmerized by the talents of these young men who played their hearts out for an hour to a packed house of screaming fans. Greg Bennett and his staff at Konocti are to be complimented for allowing this free show for the young people and for the old grandparents like us to showcase this unbelievable band. We have attended many concerts a Konocti and enjoyed them all but this one was as outstanding as any of them were, and these are local high school kids, unbelievable. Congratulations boys and especially to there parents who obviously supported them all of the way.

I have to say, as a former musician for eight years in my school days and having a trio who played gigs around Sonoma County in the late forties, I appreciate these young talented boys to keep it up as they will hit the big time in the near future as the get a little older and more experienced.

I was especially impressed with the drummer who was outstanding and reminded me of the days of Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich at the Jazz at the Philharmonic concerts which we attended.

Only next time, not so much smoke as the visibility became poor in the auditorium and we didn't want to miss anything. Thank you

Merlin Johnson
 Kelseyville



Guest Commentary

Local business needs help from local governments

Lake County needs to take our new President's lead to heart. He has opened the door to the state to set emission standards, that may differ from federal standards. The same can be, and should be done by Lake County regulatory departments.

For far to long, most regulations and rules regarding standards for small county health, building, agriculture, etc, departments, pattern there rules and regulations after those of either the federal government or state governments rules and standards.

This has lead to extreme overkill. Take for example, the health departments standards for opening a new food establishment. The call for the use of Stainless Steel for some equipment needed in running such a business, runs up the cost of a new business starting up.

These standards have been put into place, with the encouragement of the largest restaurant chains, to hinder competition. The new guys and gals, who desire to go into that line of business, don't have the kind of wealth that the larger corporations have, thus, are discouraged right out of the shoot, from bringing their skills and talents to bare.

Not that long ago, galvanized

Jim Hall

was good enough. In food handling, cleanliness is the goal, and that just takes elbow grease, something that a new operator can and should provide, while saving \$1,000's in starting up this kind of business. This principle can be said for the building industry, and agriculture ventures as well as many, many other start up types of businesses.

Overkill in rules and regulations, is a very costly and adds up in many ways to keep very qualified and hardworking folks from stepping up to the plate and risking failure, loss of savings, etc.

A small county like Lake, is held back, from offering many types of business that, under the weight of the cost of getting into business, is really based on those rules and regulations born in the large cities, of any state.

The county leadership, should listen to its citizens, in all the trades, to hear of all the over kill

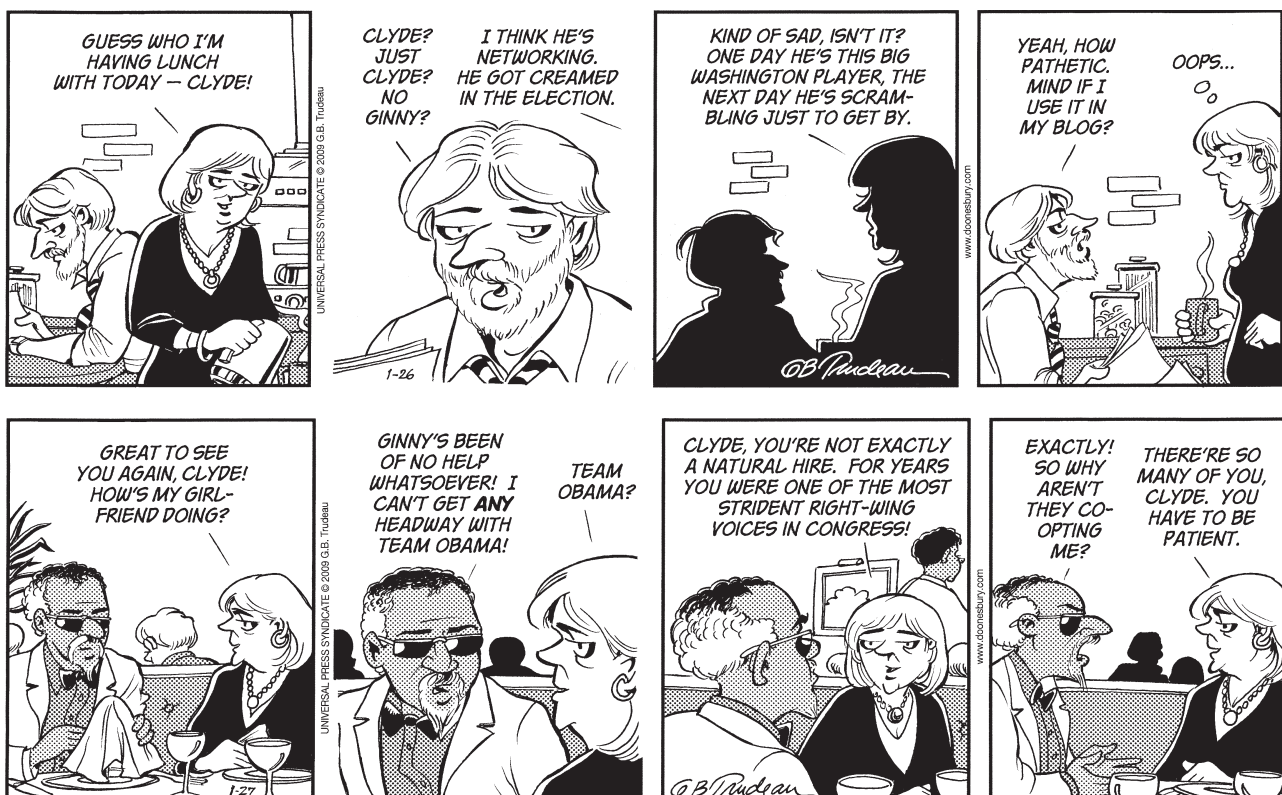
that they have to deal with, and make good, fair and wise judgments, on adjusting the county's standards, to better allow a more level playing field for those brave souls, how have the guts to start a new business, and offer new jobs, goods, and services to all the folks that live at the lake.

Small business employees more folks than the giants. A multi-level fee base for county permits, charging the start up businessmen and women, for permits, etc, should and would be very helpful in this area also.

Is it not true, that the larger business take the lion share of any consumer base, and the Mom and Pop's, so recognize this fact and again, level the playing field. We are a nation of very intelligent, creative, hardworking, moral people, and fair play is part of our standards. The county leadership, during these very difficult years ahead of us, need to step up to the plate, and do what is in there power to reach out and help where they can, and this is an area that they can make a difference.

Jim Hall is a resident of Clearlake Oaks. Opinions are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Lake County Record-Bee or its management.

Doonesbury by Gerry Trudeau



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