

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

Since the death of Father Eric Freed, I have seen a number of comments regarding the release of the suspect from the Humboldt County Jail shortly after midnight on New Year's Day. I agree with those that think the release of a prisoner should be within a reasonable hour when transportation is available as well as the released prisoner's family, if that be the case. Is this protocol set up by the jail administration or is this done to satisfy a legal directive? I don't know, but I think that it should be changed. Far be it for me to question the incarceration procedures but I do think that the release of anyone should be with the idea that he or she be freed under optimal conditions meaning access to transportation, shelter or a chance for family members to provide their support. How many past releases in the middle of the night have led to an incidence where a crime was committed? Would this have made any difference in the murder of Father Freed? Possibly! Or would it have caused the death of someone else that night or at a later date? That is anyone's guess. I realize that jails house prisoners and are not private hotels with check in and checkout times nor should the Sheriff's Office and city police departments provide a taxi service. Another "headliner" now-a-days is the unique weather, not only in our area, but the greater part of California. Weather is probably one of the most talked about subjects anywhere you go. How many of us call a family member or a friend in another part of the nation, or the world for that matter, without including an inquiry about weather conditions? We worry about the lack of rain which can lead to crop failure and wild fires, or we worry about too much rain causing floods or the fast growing of grass and brush which can lead to wild fires. If it is too cold, we talk about another ice age and if too hot, about global warming. Weather dictates our lives whether or not we want to admit it. (How we dress, how we travel and what we eat are examples). It seems as though we are never satisfied nor can we change Mother Nature. Goodness knows we have tried over the years, but to no avail. So what can we do? Nothing, to change the weather, but we can still plan for it as we have always done. Weather observers have made remarkable advances over the years with their forecasting and warnings when needed. I think that people, in general, have been putting more faith into weather reports and well they should. This world, according to science, has experienced a myriad of climate changes over millions of years and will continue to do so regardless of us humans. We must continue to learn from experience.

Fred Nelson for Community Comment.