

Readers Lend Their Voices... *continued from page 4*

my hope for Columbia County, our state, our country, and our world.

Diane Dillard
St. Helens

To the Editor,

Columbia County has been discovered by the globalists and they want a piece of us. In the last 10 years there has been an onslaught of rich foreign investors and East Coast limited liability privately held corporations anxious to exploit small towns along our rivers.

One doesn't have to look farther than the old Reynolds plant in Longview, where pollutants have compromised drinking water, or Hanford upriver with its radioactive materials contaminating workers, leaching poison toward the Columbia, or the Harbor superfund site along the Willamette in Portland to see a history of corporations leaving polluted messes in the wake of their investment, pollution that we the people pay to clean up, (if it ever gets cleaned up).

The Portland Harbor Superfund site identified in 2000 has taken 17 years to develop a base clean up plan to get rid of "PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), Dioxin/furans, the pesticide DDT, and

PAHs (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons), generally associated with petroleum products." Hanford will take thousands of years of human supervision to remain safe. Is that even possible?

Were the jobs those industries provided worth the years of contamination, cancers, leukemia rates, river and soil destruction that remain decades after the jobs have been long gone? I think not. Thinking about consequences...probabilities, outcomes, risks.

We must elect people who have the understanding that foreign investors and limited liability corporations have no interest in enriching our communities but rather care only about their own profits which they derive by exploiting and destroying our natural resources. When the goodies are gone, the profits or the resources, the plants are shut down and employees laid off. Where is the sustainability for the local community? St. Helens had a good ride with the veneer plant, paper mill, and Armstrong, but the goodies ran out. Now what?

Elected officials need to stop pandering to industry that poisons our air, water and soil, not for our benefit, but for mindless corporations that have no interest in the well being

of our small patch of the earth, or our citizens. Our politicians need to stop selling our publicly owned properties and river front treasures as though we were beggars desperate for a hand out.

We all can value the gifts of rich and fertile Columbia County by building toward a vision of healthy living, nature, safety, education, and a sustainable economy.

Forethought, planning skill, and appreciation of our county resources, is exactly what Paulette Lichatowich brings to the Commissioner's table. With her 13 years of experience in Columbia County planning, she can work with local folks to develop a comprehensive vision for the county that faces up to the challenges and opportunities of our times while fitting in with the Oregon vision for our state.

Paulette's knowledge and experience in science, working at OSU in Agriculture and Economics, editing WJ of Ag Economics, her experience in both small business management and government give her exactly the mix of experience, wisdom, and skill required at this critical time in our county's history.

Why are those international and East Coast investors after our county? Not to help our land or people but to enrich themselves.

We need Paulette Lichatowich as our County Commissioner.

Mary Duvall
Clatskanie, OR

To the Editor,

As a near lifelong, fifth-generation resident of north Columbia County, I am sick of the lies being perpetrated by the Columbia Riverkeepers, their allies, dupes, and candidates within our county.

The property at Port Westward which the two wisest and courageous members of our Columbia County Board of Commissioners voted to approve for rezoning is NOT the property proposed for the much-maligned methanol plant. That site has long been zoned industrial. Before the plant becomes a reality, however, it would need to pass all of the State of Oregon's substantial environmental restrictions. AND, despite the rants and raves we have heard for years, if it were approved, the methanol plant would not

put the mint and blueberry farms out of business. That's hyperbolic nonsense!

The reality is that the Riverkeepers and their local minions are trying to prevent any family-wage job growth in north Columbia County. The property in question at Port Westward is attractive to environmentally-friendly development which would bring much needed jobs to the north Columbia County area when and if the rezoning is finally accomplished, and which would be welcomed by its agricultural neighbors in the Clatskanie area.

We are all for tourism-related and art-focused economic development, but they, alone, cannot support our schools, fire districts, libraries, parks, and other amenities which are so important to our quality of life.

Henry Heimuller understands this. He has the courage, wisdom, experience, and dedication to lead Columbia County as we tackle the problems of balancing our economy and our environment.

Deborah Hazen
Clatskanie, OR

To The Editor,

Paulette Lichatowich may be a "newcomer," having only lived in Columbia County for 18 years, but she has a keen sense of our county. Her firm commitment to our core values and desire to see them lived in our community is refreshing.

In her role as Port Commissioner, Paulette worked to develop a new vision of our community. One that utilizes resources to create opportunities for the residents of Columbia County. Opportunities that grow into a better future for all of us.

She is able to answer difficult questions with insight based on her experience and foresight based on her commitment to making Columbia County thrive.

Paulette embodies the qualities I value in a public official: community involvement, transparency, a proven moral compass, and a strong work ethic.

Her experience, strength, and hope for our future make her the ideal candidate for County Commissioner.

Joan Youngberg
St. Helens, OR

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Look for our next issue on April 19.

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Columbia County Reads 2018: Willy Vlautin

Friday, April 27, 7 pm
Author of *Lean on Pete* (movie in theaters this month), and *The Free*. Vlautin's visit to Vernonia will focus on his latest title, *Don't Skip Out on Me*. Q&A and book signing to follow. Sponsored by the Friends of the Vernonia Library.

Family Movie Night

Thursday, April 12, 6-7:30 pm
Featuring *City of Ember* (PG), 90 min. Relax at the Library and enjoy a free movie and popcorn. The movie is based on a book read by the Kids Book Group (meets Friday, April 13, 4:30 pm)

Animal Friends Storytime – Lizards!

Friday, April 13, 10:30 am
Stories with a special animal visitor. Karen Peters will be bringing in her lizard friends to visit. Simple craft to follow. For young children and families.

Ongoing Programs

Kids Book Group

Friday, April 13, 4:30-5:30 pm.
Selection for April: *City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau
For kids and families. Reading level and grade level interest of titles will vary, ranging from grades 3-6. If interested in the book group and would like to be on the contact list, call or visit the library (503) 429-1818 or email shannonr@vernonia-or.gov

Knitting Group

Saturday, April 21, 10 am-Noon

For knitters with all levels of experience. You're welcome to bring your own materials or project. If you need materials or have questions, contact Caitlin at boylandknitworks@gmail.com.

Writer's Group

Thursday, April 19, 6-7:30 pm
3rd Thursday of every month. For writers with all levels of experience. Meeting for March will be at the Fire Department Meeting room.

Book Discussion Group

Monday, April 23, 5:30 pm
Discussion selection for April: *The Kalahari Typing School For Men* by Alexander McCall Smith

Storytimes

Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 10:30-11:15 am
Songs, rhymes, books, toys, and bubbles! For ages 0-3. Older siblings welcome.

Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30-11:15 am
Stories, activity, and a craft. Planned for children up through age 6.

Library Closure

*The Library will be closed
Monday, April 30 – Saturday, May 5
for new carpet installation.*

Library Hours & Contact

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-5
Tuesday, Thursday: 1-7
Saturday: 10-4
Closed Sundays

Phone: (503) 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov



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