

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Volunteers created a successful month

March has been a good month for a number of reasons that could easily be over-looked, but really should be recognized.

Area citizens have been doing their usual good work as volunteers, but they also turned out in larger than usual numbers to support the efforts of volunteer organizations: The AFS Friendship Days Dinner, Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce banquet for Citizens of the Year, and the luncheon/fashion show of the American Cancer Society-Vernonia unit were all extremely successful - even though they were all in the same week.

Good things happened elsewhere, too.

The Vernonia City Council dealt with a controversial proposal in a sensible, non-hysterical fashion. When asked to consider changing the city's gambling ordinance to comply with less restrictive county regulations, they responded by appointing a study committee that represented all sides of the issue. The committee's unanimous recommendation was to leave the city ordinance unchanged, the recommendation was accepted and a potentially explosive situation was defused without a single shot fired.

Council members refrained from any personal comment on the proposal until after the committee made its report; that's a good way to avoid putting undue pressure on the people studying the issue. It also demonstrates a maturity that has, for many years, been sorely lacking on the council.

Sensible action was also taken by another public board this month, this time in response to their own inappropriate behavior.

Directors of the Vernonia Rural Fire District invited Mist-Birkenfield RFD directors to a joint planning session - a good idea - but they closed the meeting to the public, an action that violated Oregon's open meeting regulations. While discussions of public bodies may be more candid without an audience, the purpose of the open meetings law is to keep the decision making process in public view.

The VRFD directors were variously annoyed or embarrassed when the violation was pointed out, but they did the right thing - they cancelled the meeting before it got underway and scheduled another, public, meeting.

The VRFD directors, the Vernonia City Council and all the other volunteers made March a good month.

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
Vernonia City Librarian

Many thanks to Pat Hall for the following author review:

What do you think of when I say the name Roald Dahl? Froboscottle? Whizzpoppers? Well actually, probably nothing.

But what if I mentioned "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"? (actual title; "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") You would probably by now have a picture in your mind of Mr. Dahl.

Mr. Dahl's books appeal to ages 5 to adult. They deal with characters, attitudes and actions we can all relate to. Within the framework of the various stories you will come upon situations and responses that you have taken or wish you had taken yourself.

Mr. Dahl's ability to portray humor at any character level makes you feel at ease in the presence of Queens, Presidents, Common Folk and Gentry alike.

In "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" you find young and old filled with greed and misbehavior. "Charlie and the Glass Elevator" raises childish behavior to adult level (so that adults can partake in it). Both books also deal with strength of

character and reward for honest action.

Mr. Dahl's most recent books, "Danny the Champion of the World" and "The BFG" (Big Friendly Giant) bring a change from his earlier works.

"Danny the Champion of the World" is written in a "real world" England and creates an environment of trust between common people living everyday lives. This is all viewed through a father-son relationship as the son grows and learns about his father and his father's various acquaintances.

In "The BFG," fantasy once again reigns, but.....beware the whizzpoppers!

In any event, Roald Dahl is an author who can be enjoyed more than one time, by more than one age group.

The Library Board would like to invite you to attend an Open House to be held in the library on Wednesday, April 25, 1990 from 2-4 p.m. Cake, coffee and punch will be served and we encourage you to join us as we share friendship, refreshment and support of the library.

Library Hours: Monday and Friday 1-5 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Preschool Story Time is every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

Letters to the Editor

Roberts capable?

To the Editor:

During this last period of preparation to file the proper forms to become a precinct committee person for either the Democrat or Republican parties, the central committees were harassed with requests for undo (sic) forms that were issued at the last possible moment by the Secretary of State's office under the direction of Barbara Roberts.

Many of these changes were mandated by the last session of the legislature in 1989. I believe that since that time there has been adequate time to issue these changes to the County Clerk offices in the state. However, a week before the filing dead-

line of March 6, the clerk's office in St. Helens received a fax at 8:11 p.m. February 27th, asking that persons wishing to file for the position of precinct person would have to file Forms 220 and 227, Statement of Organization and Appointment of Political Campaign Treasurer and A Certificate of Limited Contributions and Expenditures. Nowhere in my memory has there been any money expended in this county, especially, to file as a precinct person. I'm sure that Art Laubach and I would certainly welcome some competition in filings as in recent years there has been little interest taken in this lackluster position.

Whereupon on March 6th, the deadline for filing, another fax was received from Salem

informing the Elections Division that the request for the two forms, 220 and 227 had been cancelled. Much additional time and money had been spent by both parties and the Elections Division to comply with Salem's prior demands.

My question is, if Barbara Roberts is elected as Governor of this fair state, would she be capable of running that office any better than the one she now occupies?

Joanne VanNatta,
Chairwoman

Columbia County Republican Central Committee

Thanks for labels

To the Editor:

We'd like to express a big "Thank You" to everyone who saved Campbell's soup labels for Vernonia Preschool.

Now we are starting to save for next year, and hope you will continue to help us. Boxes for the labels are at Sentry Market and Sunnyside Service.

Board of Directors,
Vernonia Preschool

Register now for May 15

The primary election may seem like a long way off, but if you want to express your opinion on the candidates, the levies or tax bases, you have to register to vote by April 24. Registration forms are available at the post office, city hall, the library and West Oregon Electric. You may also register at the Columbia County Courthouse.