

The INDEPENDENT

Serving the upper Nehalem River valley. Published monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, by Public Opinion Laboratory Ltd., 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064, as a free newspaper. All material protected under U.S. Copyright laws. Editors and Publishers, Dirk & Noni Andersen, (503) 429-9410

It makes cents to spend \$\$\$ at home

Since the beginning of The INDEPENDENT, nearly five years ago, we have urged readers to support our advertisers because they make this community newspaper possible.

There are other reasons to support local business people, too. One of the most important reasons is because a healthy, all-around community needs a commercial base as well as a residential base. Together they add up to a balanced tax base that helps everyone.

So what does that have to do with you, the reader? It's really quite simple.

It's Christmas shopping time, so where are you going to do your shopping? Where are you going to buy your wrapping paper, cards, candles, tree ornaments and all the other specialty items you'll use at this time of year?

Did you say you're going to drive out to some mall where you can get a good price? Well don't forget to add the price of your gasoline, plus the wear and tear on your car. By the time you've done that, you haven't saved any money, all you've done is put your money in the pocket of a business that doesn't support Vernonia, or even Columbia County.

Studies have shown that money turns over seven times in the community where it's spent. When you get your pay check and buy groceries, some of your pay goes to employees in the store. Then they make a purchase in another store and it continues that way.

Whether you buy groceries or a shovel, rent a video, make a bank deposit, buy gas, pay a baby sitter or gardener, order flowers, buy insurance, have your car serviced, or whatever, you are helping the economy of the area where you spend your money. It's just plain good sense to spend it in your own community.

It's true that Vernonia's commercial base is so small we must go out of town for some items. So take a look at the variety of businesses in St. Helens that can fill the gap. Why St. Helens? Because it's part of our county-wide economy. The same holds true for Clatskanie, Rainier and Scappoose.

If you haven't been shopping in the other towns in the county, you have a treat coming. The merchants are friendly and courteous. They treat you the way you like to be treated because they rely on repeat business, not on a huge volume that caters to strangers.

There's very little we can't find in our own back yard. And there's another bonus you can't beat...it really is nice to do business with people who know your name even before they see your credit card.

So why should you shop elsewhere? It makes no sense to support Washington or Multnomah County when you can support your own community.

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
Vernonia City Librarian

The newest reading materials for adults, in the library this month, are all in paperback form. These include *When Rabbit Howls* by Truddi Chase, *Dawn* by V.C. Andrews, *The Captive* by Victoria Holt, *Cold Harbour* by Jack Higgins, *Maze* by Larry Collins, *The Great and Secret Show* by Clive Barker, and *The Memoirs of Nancy Reagan* by Nancy Reagan. Hopefully one of these authors or titles will be just what you've been wanting to read.

With Christmas fast approaching, I would encourage you to come and look over our selection of holiday idea books and magazines. We have several very nice books containing Christmas stories, recipes, craft ideas and decorations, as well as the holiday issues of such magazines as *Crafts*, *Good Housekeeping*, *McCalls*, *Redbook* and *Better Homes and Gardens*.

Thanks to the grant money from the Meyer Memorial Trust, our library now contains the new Minolta microfilm reader/printer which is being used to begin our project of identifying and printing newspaper items relevant to Vernonia's logging and millworking history. You're welcome to use this machine to personally look at Vernonia's past via the microfilm of the former newspapers, dating from 1922. A fee of 10 cents for

each copy will be charged to pay for associated supplies.

Speaking of the past, the following items of interest are taken from 1958 issues of the *Vernonia Eagle*. "January 11 marks 80th anniversary of post office service in area;" "The last load of lumber left the Vernonia International Paper company mill April 18, to end another phase of its operation here." 1958 was also the year the Shay engine was moved to its permanent display location at First and Bridge Streets; the 2nd annual Friendship Jamboree was held, with Mrs. Frank Serafin playing the organ and children in red and blue singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" on the Christian Church's non-commercial float winner; and a Cross-out game was featured as an attraction at Vernonia's Safeway store (which was located at the site of the present City Hall and Library).

Speaking of the library, the library board will again be hosting a holiday Open House. We will be serving refreshments from 2 until 4 P.M. on December 19, and hope you'll take time to come by and visit; let us show our appreciation for your 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

Why recycle?

To the Editor:

Why do people recycle? Some because they care about the environment. Some because it is less garbage they have to pay for.

Most recently, more people are recycling because our dumps have closed and garbage has become a front door problem. It doesn't matter why people recycle, we all benefit from the result.

For a year and a half, four volunteers from Vernonia Recycles have kept the local plastic recycling program in operation. We started collecting from 5 people and now see more than 40 each month.

The amount collected monthly has gone from half a pickup truck load to as many as 3 pickup truck loads. During this year and a half, a simple routine has become very complex.

Most recently, the company that was accepting our plastics went out of business. There are other places that will take the material, but their accessibility or guidelines are not easily met.

The plastic industry is very unstable at this time. It will get better and easier to predict, but right now, patience and understanding are needed.

Two things need to be understood locally. Vernonia

Recycles' volunteers gain nothing financially from the recycling. Actually, because of long distance phone calls and transportation of the plastic, it has cost us money to keep the program running.

Secondly, we have no control over what types of plastics we accept, or the condition they have to be in. The market dictates what is being accepted. We have to meet their guidelines, otherwise we are only collecting garbage.

The good news is that we are collecting so much plastic. The bad news is that so many truck loads are costing the environment as much in burnt fuel for transportation, as is being saved by the recycling.

We now need to work with one large truck instead of several small ones. That costs money. We also need a bailer to condense the plastic to a more transferable state.

Vernonia Recycles will be applying for a grant to help cover costs. In the meantime, we need to pool our resources, either by donations or helping with transportation.

The next two months will tell the future of the plastics recycling program. It is the responsibility of all of us who take advantage of it to keep it operating, not just a few.

We are a community rich with caring people, so, if you care about the health of our planet and that of future generations, please show your support. Let's not let this vital program fall through the cracks.

Debbie Taylor,
Coordinator
Vernonia Recycles

*Season Greetings
and Best Wishes to all of our
customers and friends for a
Happy Holiday Season...
And our sincere thanks for
your friendship, loyalty and
goodwill throughout the year.*

Dirk & Noni Andersen

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