

Letters to the Editor

Jamboree Committee seeks participation

To the Editor:

This year's Vernonia Friendship Jamboree will be August 3, 4 and 5. The next meeting of the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree will be on March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lew's Place meeting room.

The agenda will include election of President and Vice President, theme contest for 2001 Jamboree, Grand Marshall and Citizen of the Year Nominations, committee assignments and new business from the floor.

The Jamboree Committee is inviting all businesses that directly benefit from the Jamboree to have an active role in planning and execution of this year's festivities. We are also inviting civic groups and other interested parties to take on an active role.

Last year, some of the proceeds of the Jamboree were distributed to Vernonia Cares and Vernonia Toy & Joy. We are confident we will be able to distribute more back into the community, with your help, and are looking forward to seeing

you at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend, please call and let us know you are interested in participating this year.

If you would like to enter the Jamboree Theme Contest, mail your suggestion to The Vernonia Friendship Jamboree, P O Box 244, Vernonia, OR 97064. The winning entry will receive a \$50.00 savings bond from U.S. Bank. The winning theme will be announced in the May 2 issue of *The Independent*.

Randy Parrow
Vernonia

Airing differences politely is good policy

To the Editor:

I must confess that in the recent ballyhooed case of the "Anonymous School Board Election Pitch" I have absolutely no first-hand knowledge. No copy of the infamous document ever darkened my door. On this score at least, its efficacy is suspect.

Some heresay evidence had come to me, that it's current legality is the result of an Oregon

Supreme Court decision in favor of free, though anonymous, speech. I doubted this, as it seemed relevant information, yet had not been published. It's always possible that I need better glasses. If that information is so, however, some concerns lately voiced would certainly seem a bit less unfounded, perhaps even a trifle germane.

Of greater concern than this maneuver's legality, I suspect, should be its wisdom. On some occasions, acting on anonymous tips is conceivably appropriate. The selection of overseers for our community's largest and most expensive government agency does not, to me, seem such an occasion. In this case I should expect that consideration of the source would be paramount, practically a requirement to avoid instant dismissal.

As ever, I am heartened to find myself in a community where such a difference is aired politely and with consideration. Kierkegaard reminds us that our spirit is as Pegasus paired with the frail plow nag of human perception, to our con-

stant and universal bedevilment.

Wayne Acton
Vernonia

Appropriate displays are appreciated

To the Editor:

This may be a short letter to the Editor, but what it reads is truly from our hearts!

We appreciate the businesses in Vernonia that do not show or sell items that degrade people, ie., pornographic material, whether it be in videos or products and inappropriate language displayed on products.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Huntington
Birkenfeld

Identifying spouses as teachers not fair

To the Editor:

Thomas Jones has every right to be upset with *The Independent* as he and Randy Hansen were the only two candidates who had their wives mentioned as teachers while the other candidates spouses were not identified. In my opinion *The Independent* made it seem like these two young men had an axe to grind.

In regards to Independent Opinion February 21 suggesting too bad someone from the Mist-Birkenfeld area didn't show interest in running for the board last fall. (There are three candidates from the Mist-Birkenfeld area that chose to run at this time.) That seems to imply that they didn't stand a chance at this election. It is their prerogative to run for a position when they feel ready.

About the candidate flyer that was circulated, I was concerned enough to find out who had paid for the flyer, as I first thought it came from the school district. I wondered at the time what other tax paying citizens were thinking. It was explained in the letters to the editor March 7 edition, but that was after some voters had sent in their ballots.

George Bellingham
Vernonia

(Reminder: Spouses were not identified; only that they were teachers. None of the other spouses was connected to education.)

Candidate thanks supporters, family

To the Editor:

I first want to express my gratitude to my husband and daughters for their unfailing support of my efforts on the Vernonia school board and as a candidate. My extended family of Gwins and Keaseys also actively supported and encouraged my bid for election to the Vernonia School Board. There are many others who helped whose efforts are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank the board of directors for the honor and opportunity to serve these eight months on the board, particularly for the chance to begin to understand the state legislature. I have

been warmed and deeply touched by the expression of support from people whom I respect and admire.

My work, however, has never been about the power and influence of the board of directors. I have worked harder and longer than anyone else in the district to develop and maintain the Site Council, the one place where the community can have direct influence on the implementation of state mandated changes in education, in an attempt to preserve our way of doing things. I will certainly continue to do so. Like my father, who sometimes knew his PCC students better than his children, and my aunt and uncle, who have devoted countless hours to School District 47J, I am compelled to continue to pursue excellence in education.

There is much work to be done. I sincerely hope that Mr. Hobart can work effectively to accomplish the business of the district and that he will find that work as satisfying and fulfilling as I have found it.

For the children,
Scharri Nelson
Vernonia

Speaker will discuss health topics

To the Editor:

Hormones, menopause and breast cancer are topics that are on all of our minds from time to time. From young women wondering about birth control to older women reaching pre-menopause, or those of us who have had surgery. Hormones control our very lives and when hormones are balanced, we are healthy and feel good. Hormones that are out of balance can contribute to many conditions from PMS to endometriosis, ovarian cysts, fibrocystic breast and, yes, breast cancer and prostate cancer, just to mention a few. Poor diet, stress and environment have been known to effect one's ability to produce hormones.

Every one of us in our lifetime will know somebody who will get breast cancer, either mom, grandmother, sister, aunt, daughter or a good friend. Studies say that one in eight women will get some form of breast cancer. A large percentage of breast and prostate cancer is caused by hormone imbalances.

Dr. David Zava, internationally known speaker, will be presenting his lecture on hormone imbalances and breast cancer. Dr. Zava is an expert on the subject of hormones and breast cancer, and is tireless in his effort to educate people in the dangers of hormone imbalances. He has agreed to come to Vernonia and present his information (not to mention he's my boss and I've asked him to come). Watch in the next issues of this paper for the exact time and location.

Dr. David Zava, internationally known speaker, will be pre-

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

Most of us hear, speak, and write words every day of our lives, but how many of us really focus on the words themselves? If we hear a word that is unfamiliar to us, do we question its meaning or its spelling? Do we keep a dictionary close at hand to find the meaning of unknown words or to check for correct spelling? Spell check on computers is a wonderful aid, but do most of us really commit the correct spelling to memory? The Spelling Bee for Seniors held March 16, gave some of us the opportunity to spend a pleasant afternoon finding just how much or how little word-power we actually had committed to memory and to disprove the fallacy that Seniors have lost their acumen. Noni Andersen's knowledge of words proved to be excellent, earning her a much deserved first place trophy. Barbara Sturdevant, an avid reader of many types of literature, is to be commended for her second place. The gentleman earning third place, George Gans, misspelled only one more word than did Barbara, and is also to be highly commended. Audeen Wagner did a terrific job of organizing the event and choosing the 100 words that comprised the list. All in all, it was a great afternoon and at least some of us will find ourselves trying to be more aware of the words we read, write and speak on a daily basis.

Authors, of course, make their living with words. A good author brings his characters, their surroundings and their circumstances to life with words. This is just what John Grisham has done in his latest novel, *The Painted House*. Set in rural Arkansas in 1952, it's harvest time on the Chandler farm and the family has hired a family of "hill people" and a crew of migrant Mexicans to pick their 80 acres of cotton. The narrator of the story is 7-year-old, Luke, who says, "I would pick cotton, tearing the fluffy bolls from the stalks at a steady pace, stuffing them into the heavy sack, afraid to look down the row and be reminded of how endless it was, afraid to slow down because someone would notice." As tensions simmer between the Mexicans and the hill people, Luke becomes privy to more secrets than anyone should be expected to keep. As this novel builds to its conclusion, the reader can visualize the farm, the town, and the plights of Luke, his family, and the workers. I enjoyed this non-legal novel by Grisham very much.

Kristen Hannah writes for a different audience, but also is an author that I would highly

recommend. Her latest novel, *Summer Island*, takes place in the serene San Juan Islands. Since Hannah is a native of that area of Washington, her descriptions are especially effective. This is a love story, but first and foremost, it is the story of a mother-daughter relationship, one that must be resolved before the happily ever-after love story can take place.

The other author I recommend this month is Kent Krueger. Krueger has previously published two novels with Cork O'Connor as the protagonist. Highlighting the luminance of Aurora, Minnesota, Krueger's latest novel of suspense is titled *Purgatory Ridge*.

Other new acquisitions to nourish the mind are *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan, *From the Corner of His Eye* by Dean Koontz, *1st to Die* by James Patterson, and *Over Tumbled Graves* by Jess Walters.

A new format available for circulation is being supplemented in the library. Thanks to Judy Thiringer, music CDs are being added on a regular basis.

Tom Brokaw's, *The Greatest Generation* and *The Greatest Generation Speaks* are available in cassette form. The Vernonia Study Club recently donated these to the library's collection of audiocassettes.

Automation is progressing with a vengeance. To date, 8,045 titles and 8,354 copies have been catalogued and are ready to be searched and checked out electronically.

Orissa's craft/story sessions continue to be well-attended and enjoyed by youngsters as well as adults. These are held on Monday afternoons at 3:30 on days when school is in session.

Mark your calendar for the next meeting of The Friends of the Library to be held April 10, at 1:00 p.m. in the library. Their campaign to recruit members is just beginning. Ideas for fund raising projects and members to accomplish the goals associated with these projects will be needed to make this organization a success.

(For the Seniors who participated in the spelling bee, seven of the words on the spelling list have been included in this article. See if you can find them.)

Vernonia Library 701 Weed Avenue
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tues., Thur. 2 p.m.-7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Preschool Story Time, Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
Phone: (503) 429-1818