

Letters to the Editor

From page 3

three terms: Input, put-put and output.

Input is what the eyes see; output is what the brain does with the information it receives from the eyes.

Put-put is a formless area between input and output. It is very hard for me to describe, but here's my best shot. The eyes see something and the brain knows there is something to be made of it. But if this information doesn't follow a known "pattern," the information isn't processed in a way that leads to easy comprehension. It is NOT dyslexic. It has a lot to do with the eyes working together and delivering a steady stream of information.

Pearcia's vision screening results showed that she was incapable of scanning material,

horizontally or vertically, printed in a font less than 12 points; she had no depth perception within 3-4 feet of her body and she had no binocular vision. The absence of binocular vision meant that, as she read, her eyes would pick up words from different parts of the page and her brain would try to make sense of it.

No depth perception meant that something was either 3 feet away or in her face! The inability to scan in either direction in a smaller letter size meant she would continually lose her place while reading. All of this together meant she was continually trying and retrying to read something with out understanding. Even though she could read!

Many kids with the same problem do one of two things,

either over-pressure themselves or quit school. The impact of either action is usually personalized by the student, making them feel "dumb" or "stupid," certainly not adequate. It can even affect them physically, being over-tired after reading, or having frequent headaches. Emotionally, it can be devastating.

The hardest part for parents is the lack of knowledge about vision therapy. An eye doctor may tell you your child's eyes are perfectly healthy, and vision therapy has been around since the late 1940's, so what's the problem? I don't know; I only know about this because we happened to ask the right doctor at the right time and he happened to be familiar with it.

So, as I opened Elise's

envelope and saw the vision screening results, I was floored. We were headed to vision therapy for a screening for Elise, due to her frequent headaches and Pearcia's experience, so I can't tell you how happy I was to see the Vernonia School District on the cutting edge regarding this. How that came about is another story in itself, which I'll be happy to share, but not here.

Please, just know this, the problems found with vision screening are completely fixable with therapy. Two states in the United States have legislated that all grade school children be screened, and parents in Oregon are working for the same here.

What's in our future? Pearcia, even after the disas-

trous first year in college, is graduating in June 2002 from WOU after only four years in college...without the huge pressure she used to put herself through, and Elise begins vision therapy in August. We have a six year jump with Elise and anticipate her schooling being far easier than it would have been. This doesn't guarantee she'll graduate with honors but she'll certainly be a happier child, performing to her own best ability without hidden pitfalls.

By the way, I understand this is more prevalent in boys than girls, so our son will be next for vision screening, in a few years.

I strongly encourage parents who received a vision screening report on a student showing

Please see page 11

Professional Directory

SUMMER COUNTRY MASSAGE CLINIC

Steve Sorbets, LMT

Swedish Massage • Deep Tissue • Reiki • Reflexology

REASONABLE RATES

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT: **503-429-5800** WALK-INS ACCEPTED

OPEN TUE, THU, FRI, 12 NOON - 7 PM • 902 BRIDGE ST. EVENINGS & WEEKENDS BY APPOINTMENT

Dr. Whitney Burton

Chiropractor

Providing Natural Health Care

503-429-0512 503-844-2715

VERNONIA HILLSBORO
622 BRIDGE ST., VERNONIA, OREGON

MASSAGE THERAPY

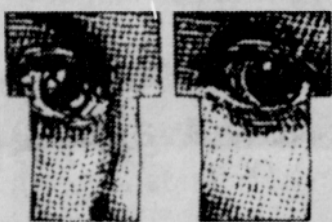
Raindrop Therapy • Deep Tissue • Ear Candling
Reiki • Swedish Massage • Reflexology

503-429-5180

1/2 OR 1 HOUR APP'T. • GIFT CERTIFICATES

MARIE KRAHN, LMT

LICENSED & CERTIFIED • QUALIFIED FOR INSURANCE



Terry P. Tobin, O.D.
Doctor of Optometry

FAMILY VISION CARE

GLASSES - CONTACT LENSES

For Appointment

Phone: 503-429-7008

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Most insurance accepted.

Call for information.

622 Bridge Street, Vernonia



Providence Family Medicine

Vernonia

Most Insurances Accepted

Monday-Friday 9-6

Call **503-429-9191** Appointment

Mark Livingston, M.D. • Laura Nichols, P.A.C.
510 BRIDGE STREET • VERNONIA



Kristine Samuelson
MSPT

Physical Therapist

Mon. & Wed. 1-6 p.m.
Providence Family Medicine

503-429-9191

Scheduling: 503-216-2004

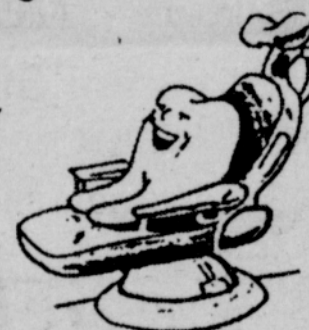
PHYSICIAN REFERRAL REQUIRED • MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED



General Dentistry

for the
Entire Family

- New Patients Welcome
- Most Insurances Accepted
- Personalized Dental Care



Mon. thru Wed. 8 am - 5 pm

Call **503-429-2675** for Appoint.

Keep your Smile in Style

VERNONIA FAMILY DENTAL

Daniel Rodriguez, D.D.S.



A-Alert Realty

M.E. "Mac" Stewart
Designated Broker

Jeanine Stewart
Sales Associate

Phone: 503-429-0223

Fax: (503) 429-9205

57985 Timber Road, Vernonia, OR 97064



COLUMBIA COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Outpatient Alcohol & Drug Services

INDIVIDUAL - COUPLE - FAMILY - GROUP

Driving Under the Influence Program
ODL Monitoring

503-429-1053



DELORES MELLINGER

(Formerly Brereton) Agent

SERVING: VERNONIA, MIST, BIRKENFELD

AUTO • FIRE • LIFE • HEALTH
IRA'S • BUSINESSES

1-800-865-2800

148 N. Nehalem, Clatskanie • 728-2800

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



Wiseman Law Offices

Serving Northwest Oregon

Ph: (503) 681-4626

- PERSONAL INJURY
- WORKER'S CLAIMS
- BANKRUPTCY
- CRIMINAL LAW - STATE and FEDERAL
(Former Law Enforcement Officer & Deputy District Attorney)
- DOMESTIC RELATIONS - MARRIAGE
and FAMILY



Charles J. Wiseman, Attorney at Law

The White House

473 S. First Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97123

VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC

Large & Small Animals

9 am-5:30 pm, Every Thursday

near Sunnyside Cafe

58376 Nehalem Hwy. S., Vernonia

Call for Appointment:

1-503-556-3084

26072 Hwy. 30, Rainier



Be Here When They Need You!

Reach 7,000 Readers
in Every Issue of

The INDEPENDENT

503-429-9410

One Insurance Agent.

Many Choices.

Call today for a free quote or
no-obligation

Personal Insurance Review.

Ofc. 503 359-1777

Res. 503-429-1016

1904 Elm St., Suite #1, Forest Grove, OR 97116

**AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE**

AUTO HOME BUSINESS HEALTH LIFE



© 1999 American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries. Home Office - Madison, Wisconsin 53783



Paul Morrow,
Agent