

Letters to the Editor

See your name on a brick for Shay Park

To the Editor:

Several years ago bricks were sold to raise money for a community center in Vernonia. The community center never came about and the group disbanded. At the time, they apparently needed a minimum of 200 bricks to be sold before they could get them engraved.

That is not so now. Vernonia Pride is taking over this endeavor and is in the process of

taking more orders for bricks before the order goes in. There is a sample brick in the window of the old J.C. Penney building [Bridge and Jefferson].

You can have your name, or the name of an organization, school class, etc., engraved on a brick for \$25 each. The bricks will be placed around the train at Shay Park.

For more information or to place an order, call Enid Parrow at 429-8134 or Donna (Gehrke) Webb 429-5201.

On another subject, Vernonia Pride would also like to thank

Lorna Poetter at Farmwoman's Nursery for the generous donation of plants for landscaping the welcome sign.

**Donna (Gehrke) Webb
Vernonia Pride**

Class lockout was a surprise to everyone

To the Editor:

To the students who came to Vernonia High School for the P.C.C. Extension Spanish Conversation class on Thursday evening, January 10, and found

the doors locked, I can only say that, along with the student who brought me, I was locked out too, and I am extremely sorry for your inconvenience. I am not sure what the confusion was, as the classes have been cleared and scheduled for over three months.

I can assure you, after talking to my boss, Ed Kaiel, head of Portland Community College Extension classes for Columbia County, that the class will again be offered for the Spring Quarter, on Thursday evenings, from April 4 to June 6, and I will do my level best to guarantee our scheduled access to the facilities, if not the High School, then at the Library or even the Senior Center, for use of which I am also negotiating.

Yours very sincerely (and apologetically),

**Carol Sawyer,
Spanish Teacher
Vernonia**

The efforts of all who participated are greatly appreciated.

**Peter O'Leary
Vernonia Toy & Joy
Program**

VHS wrestling team young, hard-working

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Vernonia High School wrestling team for their hard work and dedication this season. Whether traveling to Seaside or to Redmond, wrestling is in their blood.

With eleven freshmen and a handful of upperclassmen, they appear destined to mature in a very positive way. There's nothing like the excitement of the Oregon Wrestling Classic, now featured in Redmond, with over five hundred high schools, one hundred colleges and one hundred little person wrestlers participating. The OWC and Pacific Rim Classic in Seaside give these young people the opportunity to experience the finest in wrestling competition.

A successful program such as this also needs financial support. Business support, raffles, or whatever, generate donations to help insure Vernonia representation in quality invitations.

A special thank you to the coaching staff, James Brookins, Jeff Parker, Chris Barnes, Russ Linde, my son Jason's volunteer time, the ever faithful bus driver, Jo Ann, terrific active parents, the stat gals and to you, Vernonia Loggers. Good Luck at Districts.

**David Schmidt
Humble Mtn. Logging
Brightwood**

Adult behavior is learned in youth

To the Editor:

In response to Pat Janac's answer to my critique of the overwhelmingly common attitudes toward education in this country, first, I am sorry to have taken so long to respond. I missed that issue of *The Independent* and, after my students at the high school informed me that my letter had gotten a response, it took a while to locate a copy of the response.

Second, I thought I had made it clear that, although I mentioned it, I was not writing

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Between the Bookends

By Cindy Stanley, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library

Ed Edmo an internationally acclaimed poet, performer and Northwest tribal storyteller will bring his one man show to the Banks Public Library on Saturday, February 16, from 2-3:00 p.m.

Edmo currently works with the Oregon Folklife Program at the Oregon Historical Society and the Chautauqua Program with the Oregon Council for the Humanities. A Native American with Shoshone-Bannock tribal affiliation, Edmo is a consultant to the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. For the past 13 years, he has narrated the production "Children of the Raven" for the Eugene Ballet Company. Edmo received a National Endowment for the Arts Grant for his adaptation of the Klickitat legend "Bridge of the Gods" for the Tears of Joy Puppet Theater in 1997. In 1998 he taught "Legends as Drama" at Evergreen State College in Tacoma. Edmo conducts workshops and performs in theaters all over the country. We are honored to have him perform for us.

The performance will be free to the public, and is brought to you by the Washington County Cooperative Library Service, the Regional Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Mark your calendar for our March 9th program featuring Irish music by Innisfree.

February 9th is also Recycling Saturday, sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library. Bring all those holiday wrappings down to the Swatco Service Yard on Sellers Road between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Banks Library patrons with Internet access at home or work can browse the library resources by clicking on www.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us. Materials can be reserved electronically.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays, 10:15
a.m. when school is in session.
Phone: (503) 324-1382
Internet: www.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us.

Ike Says . . .

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get to all of the casinos. Then there is the old town and its covered roof with the laser light shows at night.

There is a lot to see in Vegas, especially the free outdoor shows that occur at night. My favorite was the water fountain show at the Bellagio. The show takes place in a pool at least two football fields long and almost as wide. There are over 1000 fountain jets that squirt into the air, some as high as 240 feet. Each jet of water is individually controlled by computer for angle and intensity. At times the noise of the jets bursting from under water into the air sounded like fireworks and echoed off of the giant Bellagio hotel in the background. I watched this show four times and I could have watched it a hundred more, it was absolutely incredible. There are many more shows, such as the pirate ship battle in front of Treasure Island Casino, the erupting Volcano in front of the Mirage and the Lions in the MGM.

We also attended three of the paid attendance shows. Our favorite was the Cirque Du Soleil's *Mystere*, which played at Treasure Island. I can't even begin to describe all the acrobatic and strength-type routines of this show.

The visual and audio pleasures kept your head on a swivel so as to not miss anything. These shows are truly world class and something that this small town hick had never seen before.

We lucked out and Las Vegas was not very crowded when we were there. This was definitely a plus. We helped pay the electric bill by donating some money to the slot machines and we were constantly full from the buffets. I have never eaten so much shrimp and prime rib in such a short time in my life. Vegas is definitely the place to eat.

My only thrill ride was at the Nascar Café. They have simulator cars that make you feel like you're in a stockcar. I raced against three other people and actually finished first; I even lapped some of them. I reached a top speed of over 160 miles an hour and I can tell you that things were a blur at that speed. Kissing the wall at 150 mph is also a thrill.

Well, back to reality, see you next month.

Izaak Walton League
Nehalem Valley Chapter meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
For meeting location, call (503) 429-7193.

The donations are equally important and we thank the following individuals and businesses for their contributions to Toy & Joy this year: Holce Logging, Randy Holce, Evelyn Holce, The Yard Doctor, Valley Veterinary Clinic, Providence-Vernonia Health Center, Robert Isted, Kelley and Laura Hillyer, Casteel Construction, Robert and Lola Gregg, Dick and Kathy Gwin, Buds & Blooms, Mike Strassel, Jerry and Glenda Raney, Vernonia Friendship Jamboree, Postmaster Sally Phillips, Bernice Frey, Faye and Bill Sword, Soderback & Daughters, John and JoAnn Beamish, Tim Bero and Eagle Star Rock.

Sincere apologies to anyone who may have been omitted.