

**Letters to the Editor**

**From page 3**  
end up utilizing all of our resources, and then have to rely on Medicaid for help, our care will cost the state more money than it will ever have saved by reducing OPI.

Aging in place is what people want. I urge you to contact the governor and your elected public officials to reinstate full funding for Oregon Project Independence.

**Merri A. Reamer**  
Executive Director  
Columbia County Council  
of Senior Citizens

**Grass is growing at "new" Spencer Park**

To the Editor:  
The recent February week of

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sunshine has been a reminder, or perhaps just a tease, that spring and better weather are just around the corner. With that will come baseball, softball, soccer, football and all the other better weather sports.

This year Vernonia will have a "new" field to play on. While Spencer Park is by no means new, having been played on for well over half a century. About three years ago, a group got together to try and improve the drainage, since it was known to be wet even through June. As the drainage problem was being addressed, a decision was made to expand the field as much as possible. This increased the scope of the project considerably and involved logging and clearing the west end, installation of drain pipe, and moving some 13,000 cubic yards of material. Today, the field is almost a third larger, relatively level, and grass is grow-

ing. Although still wet, it's only mid-February and we are hopeful that, come spring, our community will have a much better field to play on.

Improvements to Spencer Park have been a huge undertaking, involving the efforts of many individuals, companies and the City of Vernonia. I have been privileged to witness firsthand the generosity of people ...with time, money, equipment and effort. In a world increasingly driven by the bottom line, it is nice to know we have so many local people and businesses (including Vernonia Public Works) willing to stick their necks out and make this a better place for all.

While Spencer Park is just one of many improvements in Vernonia over the last few years, all have benefited greatly from the contributions of community members and businesses. In a small town, the

same people are often hit again and again, like the business owner who told me, "Some days, if it weren't for people coming through the door asking for freebies, nobody would come through the door at all!" As one who has been in the position of asking these folks for their favors, I want to say "Thank You" and hope our residents will express their appreciation of your efforts, as well as visit you with their business.

Finally, there is no way that I can list all of the individuals and businesses that have helped improve Spencer Park over a three year period without excluding many who helped. Consider this a first attempt at recognizing these folks, and please call to add any missing names or businesses for a future article. You deserve to be recognized!

Following are some of the individuals and businesses who

have contributed to this effort: Gwin and Sons Logging Co., West Side Rock-Hayden Quarry, Northwest Excavation, Keenon Land Services, Bighorn Logging, Hayes Trucking, Weller & Sons Trucking, Wilcox & Flegel, City of Vernonia, Columbia County;

Jeff Burch, Matt Chesley, Roger-Fogel, Jim Gido, Darrell Gwin, Dick Gwin, Rick Gwin, Bill Hawkins, Stan Hawkins, Jerry Keenon, Marilyn Landers, John Malnervich, Don McLimans, Matt Monnin, Jack Odom, Glenn Purvee, Scott Rethwill, Brian Roberts, Derl Roberts, Steve "Cactus" Roberts, Bill Simmons, Ernie Smith, Taylor Smith, Vance Swinsen, Eric Taylor, Dean Threat, Dick Titus, John Trent, Don Wallace, Dennis Weller, Steve Weller, Bill Wilcoxon, John Williams, Vernonia "Clean-Up-Day" Participants, Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters

**Matt Chesley, Chairman**  
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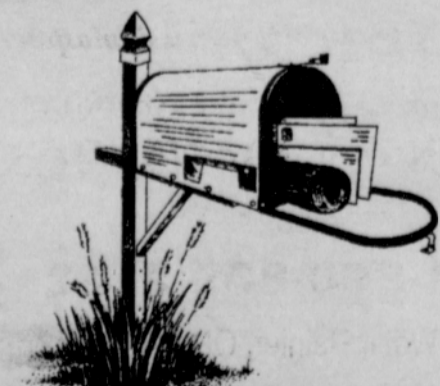
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