

Letters to the Editor

Vernonia marketing plan is exciting

To the Editor:

Having seen the announcement in *the Independent* for an "open to the public" meeting at City Hall on February 19 at 7:30 to discuss the Vernonia Marketing and Business Analysis, I went, listening, enjoying, and was able to read the presentation researched by Mary Bosch, of Marketek. My surprise was first, not many Vernonians in attendance and second, I got to read the entire presentation. It is full of creative ideas for our town's growth and an excellent critique of some of Vernonia's problems. Ms. Bosch did a spectacular job pointing the way for Vernonia to assist existing business while promoting "tourism" in Vernonia.

She encouraged capturing the essence of our community and capitalizing on what we already have to offer visitors. Our town is on the way to Highway 30; we have Jamboree, Larry Steele's, Christmas Bazaar, etc. and all come in from Highway 26 on our Highway 47.

Vernonians, volunteers, all did it for Shay Park, Anderson, Spencer Park and our Scout Cabin, etc. The creative minds of this community could come together again volunteering to implement these and their own ideas into an actuality that would really bring business to Vernonia. The short term visitors would be back again and again for more.

Are you new in town? Do you have senior extra hours? Get a copy of this report!

Is it down your alley to head up this kind of a committee? I'm

a volunteer. Join the rest of us, please.

Isabelle McDaniel
Vernonia

Regional Strategies program vital to area

To the Editor:

I read your page one article on Commissioner Joe Corsiglia's proposed changes to the Regional Strategies and your editorial as well. Both were very well written.

Having served on a number of local and countywide community organizations, it astounds me that one of our commissioners could not only have such little information about the benefits of this program to all communities, but would be remiss in not consulting his fellow commissioners before submit-

ting testimony on official county letterhead.

To destroy a program that is so vital to this county is not in the best interests of this voter.

Peter Alotta
St. Helens

Don't cut music to balance the budget

To the Editor:

I don't know exactly how to say this because it doesn't (yet, I think) concern Vernonia schools, but the 5:00 p.m. news on Channel 2, Monday, February 25, had a spot on an Oregon school having to cut something from the budget. They are considering the school music programs, starting with the "lower" grades. But, they will raise school sports fees to keep sports. O.K., so the older kids need their outlets.

But, young children (Grade 5 and lower) don't have the muscle nor drive for such sports. They can, however, sing, dance and have the desire to make music.

My two kids, one of each, didn't play sports, they were not so inclined. In Grade 5, my son took to the slide trombone. He could hardly extend the slide halfway, but he stuck with it until his Senior year. The school sports band, the jazz band went far in competition, not winning first place all the time, but because of his music, he didn't become an alcoholic, does not smoke (he needed his lung power), nor did he join the red-neck pack in town. My daughter sang through school.

Please, if you are faced with dropping something, don't let it be music.

Jacqueline Ramsay
Vernonia

P.S. Thanks for giving me a place to vent my concern for the kids.

Senior lunches get help from community

To the Editor:

Congratulations, Vernonia! Once again, you've "stepped up to the plate and made it happen!" When the Senior Center announced their funding for lunches two days a week had been cut, the people of Vernonia said "That can't happen!" The "wise ones" who lunch and socialize at the center are the

same ones who made Vernonia what it is today. They're the people who baked casseroles, cookies, etc. for those in need. Now, they need our help and it's pay back time.

Without the generous PEO sisters' encouragement and donations, we would be in real dire straits. Also, Rietta Behnke spent many hours cooking and looking for help. She made it happen when the funding was first cut. Noni Andersen and *the Independent* brought the story to our attention.

Help is still needed. Donations of canned fruit or vegetables, desserts and cash will be greatly appreciated. They can be taken to the Senior Center and are tax deductible. Please designate the Tuesday/Thursday Club on any donation. With your help, we can continue to support those who have given so much to this community. If you have any questions, please call me at 503-429-9671.

I urge anyone who would like to get to know these wonderful, interesting people, to spend some time with them at the center. They have some interesting stories to tell and are always willing to share their time with friends. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Carol Davis
Vernonia

Wrong to discredit regional program

To the Editor:

Many thanks for your article reporting Commissioner [Joe] Corsiglia's attempt to discredit the Regional Strategies program, and for your editorial. I support the program and appreciate the assistance to rural counties whose budgets are already stretched to the limit.

Despite his continual claims to representing "the people," I am one of the people and he rarely represents my position or my beliefs. The use of official letterhead is an issue that I hope will be addressed, as it does give the appearance that the other two commissioners concur, which I am certain is not true.

Thanks again for addressing these issues rationally and with an understanding of the benefits to rural communities.

Susan Easley
St. Helens

Between the Bookends

By Cindy Stanley, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library

The next special program at the Banks Public Library will feature well-known Portland performers, "Innisfree," on Saturday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. Innisfree will bring us traditional Irish music with songs, jigs and reels by Brenda Searcy and Jim Loewenherz. This talented duo performs and teaches Irish music, using voices, accordion, pennywhistles, guitar, concertina, mandolin and bodhran (Irish drum).

"We offer a blend of excellent musicianship and neighborliness, knowing the importance of each of us in making our neighborhood vibrant and rich," Innisfree explains. The program is free to the public and is brought to you by the Washington County Cooperative Library Service, the Regional Arts & Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

March 9th is recycling day sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library at the Swatco Service Yard on Sellers Road near Hwy. 26, be-

tween 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you miss this date, look for the mixed paper recycling bins that were near to Main Street in the parking lot of Dayspring Christian Fellowship. They have been moved away from the street onto the City of Banks' gravel parking lot, next to the paved library parking lot. Proceeds from the bins now benefit the library. The hauler accepts mixed paper (including old paperback books, magazines and newspapers) but not cardboard.

Remember, Banks Library patrons with Internet access can browse the library resources or reserve materials electronically by going to the website listed in the information box here.

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.wcccls.lib.or.us.

Ike Says . . .

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year. The bill for this outbreak of TB may be as much as \$100,000 to \$200,000. Thanks, elk ranchers!

The question must be asked: Is it viable to have wildlife ranching in Oregon? The risks are inherently high and the costs for such ventures are not being borne by the people reaping the profits. It is basically a no-risk operation. To ask sportspeople to bear the costs of such risks is not justifiable. If an infectious disease spread from captive animals into the wild animal community, the economic losses to our state could be horrendous. Hunting is a big industry in Oregon and the spin-off of related purchases (guns, ammo, clothes, food, shelters, pickups, animals, etc.) is huge. Is the ranching community willing to shoulder the economic costs if an outbreak has a devastating effect on wildlife in Oregon? Are they liable? This is a question that their in-

surance agents should be asking themselves. Then there is the question of compensation to sportspeople who are affected by a loss of hunting opportunity. If a prized captive bull elk is worth \$10,000 dollars, what is fair compensation to a sportsperson who is denied the opportunity to hunt for many years into the future? These are all questions without answers and I personally do not feel it is fair to have these types of operations in Oregon until they are answered. It is time to follow in the footsteps of Montana and Wyoming and remove this threat from our state. We have too much to lose for so little gain.

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.