

## Letters to the Editor

### Spiritually, Vernonia doesn't meet needs

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Lisa Edgar's letter in your April 4th issue. I was reading along,

nodding in agreement with her comments about community support and shopping convenience. Then, however, came the part where we parted opinions.

Although the act of locating

a church home is commonly referred to as "shopping," it is nothing like comparing prices or delivery options on major appliances. Shopping for a church means going where the Lord leads you, not just going to the

closest building with a cross on its sign.

My family has needs other than local churches seem able to provide. A vibrant music program is one, now that you mention it. 'Exciting' music is central to one of my family member's praise experience. We're supposed to make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord, which may mean we need more than a piano as accompaniment.

Also we believe that our children benefit by an array of programs and services, not to mention a Sunday School class where there is more than one other student their age.

And I have a wild suggestion for your question regarding 'getting the draws' locally. What if there was just one large church? What if all the little churches did away with their petty differences? What if all the local resources (monetary, time, talent!) were combined so that we could enjoy expanded ministries and an 'exciting' praise team? I know for a fact that my family would be there, giving all we could to keep it happening.

We, too, are proud Vernonians, but spiritually for us, Vernonia is lacking. I will buy my next refrigerator here, but must seek incorporeal fulfillment elsewhere.

Continually seeking His advice,

**Susan Foster  
Vernonia**

### Businesses need to support each other

To the Editor:

In response to the letter written by Lisa Edgar in the April 4 issue of *the Independent*, I am the Owner/Operator of "Marie's Tropical Fish" located at the Bridge Street Mall in downtown Vernonia. I have also contributed, through personal and business finances, monetary donations to this community. I am proud of this town and have seen the growth in the two years I have been here. I support the letter Lisa Edgar wrote, however, my concern is this. In your letter, you went on about supporting the local businesses and how the downtown businesses are "picked on." My question for you is "why would you want to duplicate a business already in operation?"

I feel Creatures (your store) is a great thing for Vernonia. I

have heard the talk from the kids and adults, both pros and cons, about your store. Never have I said a bad remark regarding your store. I have always supported your store in this way.

I have worked hard to build my clientele. I have always made sure my customers are satisfied with their purchases. The point I am making is this. Why, after knowing I was in operation, would you want to take a bit of the market I have tried to build?

You have the "Creatures" cornered and I feel by you adding tropical fish to your business, this was a slap in the face to myself, the local businesses and yourself, which is what you wrote in the last *Independent*.

I ask, in fairness to your letter, that you remove the fish from your business and all will be resolved. If you choose not to, I will still be fine with that, as I know that I am an honest, up-standing business owner and proud Vernonian.

**Marie Due  
Vernonia**

### Arts & Crafts can be in Jamboree with help

To the Editor:

Over the course of the past months it has come to our attention that Vernonia and the surrounding area have a plethora of original artists and craftsmen.

In past Jamborees there was a section for local artists and craftsmen to exhibit their creations. Due to the unprecedented turnout for last year's Jamboree, and efforts to make the upcoming Jamboree bigger and better, it has been suggested by many people that we bring back an original arts and crafts section.

Are you one of these artists or craftsmen, or do you know someone that would like to display their creations to the public during Jamboree weekend? If you are, we want to hear from you. We also would like to hear from anyone who has experience in coordinating Arts & Crafts shows or would like to help.

At present we have received no entries for the theme contest. We feel there was confusion about the original intent of

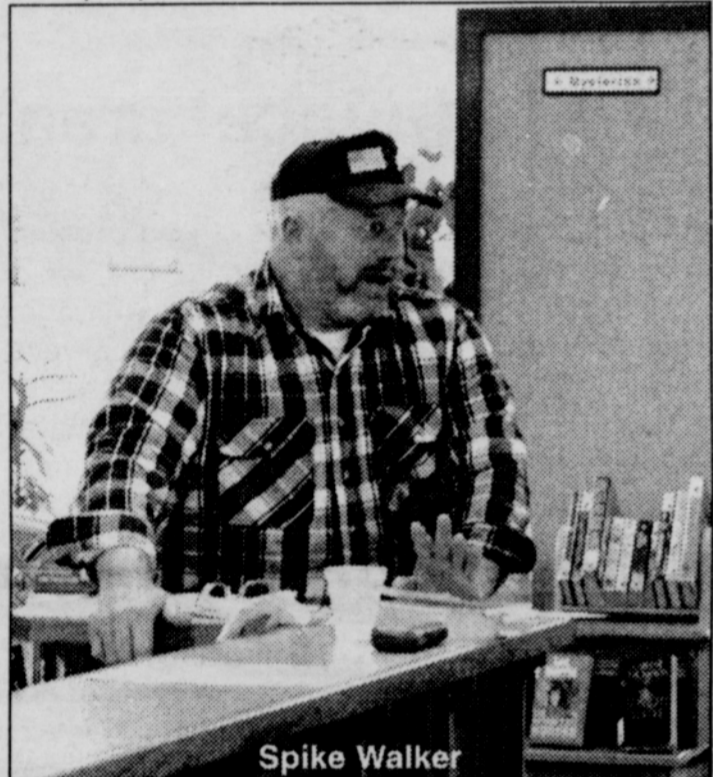
**Please see page 14**

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library

These past two weeks can be described only by adjectives such as noteworthy, unprecedented, extraordinary, and marvelous.

Saturday, April 6, was the very first presentation by a Northwest author in Vernonia's library. Co-sponsored by The Friends of the Library and the Library Board, the event was enjoyed by the 30+ people who attended. True-adventure au-



Spike Walker

thor Spike Walker related some of the thrilling adventures he has written about and talked about the way he researches and writes his books. He also told about studying and absorbing the descriptive writing methods of such authors as Steinbeck, Michener, and Thomas Wolfe and how these authors influenced him and his writing. After the presentation, Walker was gracious in writing personalized comments in all of his books that were purchased at the event. The books were obtained through the St. Helens Book Shop as part of a Book Fair fundraising event with a percentage of the gross receipts going to the library as a credit at The Book Shop. All in all, the afternoon was great—entertaining, profitable and satisfying both to the soul and to the stomach (One person commented that Enid Parrow's brownies would draw a crowd just by themselves.).

Several contributions have been made to the library in the past two weeks in memory of Ora Bolmeier. Ora was a long time, respected member of the community, having taught school for many years and, after retiring, working as a clerk for the City of Vernonia. Although she had been in Forest Grove for several years, she will be remembered and missed by her many Vernonia friends as well as by her family. The donations in Ora's memory will be used to purchase books reflecting Ora's personality and interests and are greatly appreciated.

The newly-installed, attractive information/

message board in the entryway has been donated to the Vernonia community, "in loving memory of Kathryn M. (Malmsten) Greathouse" by Mark, Gordon, and Lowell Greathouse (Kathryn's sons) and Lowell's father-in-law, Arthur Knapp. Be sure to notice this new addition on your next visit to the library.

The preschool story time continues to be well attended. This activity, held each Monday morning at 10:30, is an enjoyable time for staff, youngsters and parents. Preschoolers and their parents are encouraged to join the fun. Youngsters are also encouraged to attend the Monday afternoon Reading Enrichment activities. These sessions are held at 3:30 each Monday that school is in session and are under the direction of Trish Maldonado.

Although this article must be submitted prior to the performance of Steve Taylor, the magical ventriloquist, this should be another stupendous happening at the library. This event is in honor of National Library Week and is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. If you wish to join this organization, whose sole purpose is the support of the library and its programs, meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library. The next meeting will be May 7.

Recent acquisitions also promise to be exciting, thrilling, provocative and alluring to Vernonia's readers. These include *Lucky Man* by Michael J. Fox, *Act of God* by Susan Sloan, *Widow's Walk* by Robert B. Parker, *Justice Hall* by Laurie King, *The Bondwoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts, *The Pillars of Creation* by Terry Goodkind, *The Golden One* by Elizabeth Peters, and *Three Fates* by Nora Roberts.

With all of the interesting activities that are currently taking place at the library, planning is beginning for the upcoming Summer Reading Program. The theme of "Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading" holds many possibilities for some great activities. In order to make this a success, volunteers are being asked to help with the program. If you, your family, or organization will be willing to commit to helping with at least one of these sessions, please contact the library. The success of this program will be in direct proportion to the amount of community involvement. Informational sheets will be available in the library shortly with available time slots for help with reading stories, helping with a craft, or with an activity.

Keep reading and keep supporting your library. As this article points out, donors and volunteers are extremely valuable in insuring the success of the library and its programs.

**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