

Letters to the Editor

Volunteer clean-up at P.O. is appreciated

To the Editor:

As the postmaster of the Vernonia Post Office, I would like to give a public thank you to the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard around the post office during Vernonia Pride Day. I realize most residents do not know the Postal Service is mandated by Congress to lease buildings in towns the size of Vernonia. The owner of our building is a physician in the mid-west and, unfortunately, we have been in litigation with him over maintenance to the building for quite a while.

Again, I would like to give a special thank you to Enid Parrow, Dan Murphy, Mike Sykes, Tony Hyde, Scott Rethwill, Ray Pelster, Kathleen Griffin, Rachael Sykes, Erin Gehrke, Jessie Roberts and Austin East. If I have missed anyone, please forgive me.

I feel very privileged to have a job that has allowed me to be part of such a great community.

**Sally Phillips, Postmaster
Vernonia Post Office**

Competition is the basis of capitalism

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter by Marie Due in the April 18 issue of *The Independent*. Her letter was in response to a letter in the April 4 issue written by Lisa Edgar. Lisa was commenting on the

lack of support for local, and especially downtown, businesses. She commented that people will go to a competitor, and then wonder why a local business fails. When taken in the context of the entire letter, this comment refers to competitors outside Vernonia. I believe that Marie may have missed this point. In her letter, she basically attacked Lisa for adding a tropical fish section to her store, Creatures.

As both Creatures and Marie's Tropical Fish are local businesses, neither would fall into the category of out of town competition referred to by Lisa. Competition in town is a sign of a healthy, growing business environment. Competition in business is the basis for capitalism, which is, by definition, the American Way. If Lisa were to pull the fish from her store, as Marie asked in her letter, then we should also ask one of the gas stations to close, and one of the markets to close, and one of the hardware stores to close. We should also ask that, from this point, no one be allowed to open a business if one that is similar already exists. As a former business owner myself, I can tell you now that none of these things will happen. If Marie is concerned about competition, then she needs to adjust her business so that it meets a need or possibly specializes in an area of the market that other local businesses don't.

My intent here is not to attack or put down Marie. I be-

lieve that she simply misunderstood Lisa's statement about competition. Lisa did not specify out of town competitors, however, this was the tone of her entire letter. I hope my criticisms will be viewed as constructive.

**Keith Shaw
Vernonia**

Vernonia Shines by volunteers' efforts

To the Editor:

Vernonia Pride and SOLV would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped this year's Make Vernonia Shine day. We had wonderful weather, which certainly helped, and roughly 140 or more volunteers that day (I heard rumors of people working, who did not sign up, and were not counted. Thanks for your help, too, but please sign up and come join us for lunch. We miss your faces.)

You just have to look around town and cannot miss the wonderful job you did.

Just an interesting tidbit: On page 79, in the history book, *Vernonia: A Pocket in the Woods*, there are comments about civic pride. The women of Vernonia organized the city's first "Clean Up Day" on April 25, 1922. It notes that schools were closed and businesses closed for a few hours to clean up. The city helped and prisoners were even taken out of jail to help beautify the town. It says that "Clean Up Day" be-

came a tradition in Vernonia. I guess this is true, although it would be my guess that some years went by without this yearly event. (If you would like to purchase *Vernonia: A Pocket in the Woods*, they are on sale at Vernonia Sentry Market for \$16.00.)

THANKS TO ALL who helped on Saturday. It was nice to see your smiling faces and nice to see all of the kids who showed up because you do make a difference and you are the future of this town.

If anyone is interested in joining Vernonia Pride we are always looking for new members (we currently have a secretary position open). I know that when I moved to this town, in 1994, I met so many more people when I joined Vernonia Pride and it has been wonderful. Thanks to all of you who help our organization because, in helping Vernonia Pride, you are really helping Vernonia.

**Donna Webb
Vernonia Pride**

Thanks for helping Women's Center

To the Editor:

Columbia County Women's Resource Center, its board, volunteers and staff, would like to thank the community for making the 3rd Annual Café Boogie a success. Our center could not exist without support from our neighbors, friends, businesses, artists and each and every concerned person in Columbia County.

Our special thanks go to the following: Bathing Bungalow, Bertucci's Chocolates, Best Western Oak Meadows Inn, Blue Moon Gifts, Christopher Burkett, Cindy Bremmer, Camp

Emerald Forest, Chinook Winds Casino, Columbia Village, Cookies by Design, Curves for Women, Earth 'n' Sun, El Tapatio Restaurant, Bob Hemmerling, Ida's Wreath Shop, Joy Creek Nursery, Key Title, Teresa and John Knight, Liefeld's Jewelry, Mossbarger's, Pat and Bob Nelson, Nelson's Nursery and Gifts, Oregon Trail Lanes, Portland Trail Blazers, Rainier Eagles #4022 Auxiliary, St. Helens Book Shop, St. Helens Golf Course, Scappoose Business and Tax, Scappoose Fitness Center, Semling's Pharmacy, Sunshine Pizza, Gary and Roxy Templin, Tony's Shoes, Judi Weigandt, Shena Wheeler, Wicker Wonders, Wild Star Design and Repair, and Weird Harold's Custom Iron.

We also want to thank our wonderful sponsors: Betsy Johnson, Boise-Cascade, Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center, Liefeld's Jewelry, St. Helens Auto Center, Tony's Shoes, Karen and Leonard Punch.

Debra and Dick Jacobus donated the use of the Time and Again Ballroom, and Dockside Steak and Pasta Express Lane Espresso donated their services to the Café Boogie.

Thank you, each and every one of you, as well as all the wonderful people who came out to dance, eat and enjoy Café Boogie. Our apologies if we have overlooked anyone. Your contribution was appreciated.

We look forward to having even more fun next year!

Sincerely,
**Karin B. Kaczmarek
Program Coordinator
Columbia County
Women's Resource Center**

Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library

Interested folks are invited to join our May program, "A Taste of Calligraphy," taught by Colleen Cavin. The workshop will be held Saturday, May 4th from 11a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. If interested, please call the library to secure your spot. This workshop is funded by the RACC, NEA, and WCCLS.

This is the library's fifth year in our beautiful building. Please help celebrate the anniversary by attending our programs scheduled Saturday, June 1st. We will host a workshop on bookbinding, taught by Colleen Cavin, from 11 a.m. to :00 p.m. In the evening, please come and enjoy a free concert performed by the Quartette Barrette. This saxophone group plays an eclectic variety of music — from jazz and ragtime to folk, classical, popular and klezmer styles. These programs are funded by the RACC, NEA, and WCCLS.

Saturday, May 11th is recycling day sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library at the

Swatco Service Yard between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you miss this date and are looking for the mixed paper recycle bins that were near to Main Street in the parking lot of Dayspring Christian Fellowship, you will find they have been moved. The bins have been placed 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.

Library patrons with Internet access at home or work can browse the library resources by clicking on www.WILInet.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.WILInet.wccls.lib.or.us.

City seeks marketing theme

Following a marketing assessment of Vernonia, under the auspices of the Oregon Downtown Development Association (ODDA), an active group of volunteers is working as a committee with the City to develop a marketing plan. One of the steps in that process is to adopt a theme.

The theme should describe Vernonia in a few easily remembered words. Tillamook's theme, for instance, is "Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze." Pendleton is called the "Round-up City" and Wald-

port describes itself as "Where the Forest Meets the Sea."

All ideas may be submitted and will be considered. Suggestions may be dropped off at city hall, or call marketing committee member Donna Webb at 503-429-5201. The deadline is Friday, May 3. Suggestions will be presented to the city council for approval.

The theme that is chosen will be adopted as the official city motto. The final decision will be the responsibility of the city council.