

Letters to the Editor

Habitat for Humanity is strong in our area

To the Editor:

I would like to report from your Columbia County Habitat For Humanity that things are looking great! We are excited at the good response to our recent pledge drive and we thank you for your donation. Remember, it is never too late, as this ministry goes on and on.

A family has been selected to partner in the next home (requirements: low income, good credit history, employment stability). A buildable lot has been donated in St. Helens and the plans are being reviewed by the City.

There is another opportunity that is a once in a lifetime for CCHH. Oregon Housing and Community Services has provided \$1.2 million dollars at zero percent interest to purchase 20 single-family home loans made to Habitat for Humanity families, so the organization can immediately recoup the amount of the first mort-

gage. This money can then be put to work building another home right now, instead of waiting to receive the zero percent loan payments from the families over a 20 to 30 year period! The catch...the home must be completed by December 31, 2002!

How can this be accomplished? Many hands make light work. We continue to need cash to purchase the permits and supplies that aren't donated, donations of building supplies, labor (skilled and non-skilled) and representatives who are willing to offer the opportunity to others.

Presently, there is a very pressing need for Vernonia. A career opportunity will severely limit my ability to participate, so I am resigning from the Board of Directors. This will leave Vernonia without a representative. It has been the commitment of CCHH since their inception, to fairly serve the entire County. The new project in St. Helens is moving ahead because of the time constraint on the OHCS

opportunity and because there have been no other buildable lots offered. Vernonia needs a representative. Is it you?

Reflecting on my life, it seems that the successes I claim are not as much of my doing as they are of circumstances, of "breaks." A Habitat home is an opportunity to give a "break" to a family who works hard, but cannot achieve enough for our ever-increasing housing market. Please consider participating in this important ministry, for families and for our community, and for the personal satisfaction of giving back.

Lani Vandehey
Vernonia

VHS team thanks all for their support

To the Editor:

Thanks to all the parents, host parents, grandparents, friends and family for their support of the high school equestrian team throughout our season. Having you in the stands

to cheer us on was great. We could not have achieved the successes we did without you.

A special thanks to the Seibert family for generously allowing us to use their arena for our practices and to Walter "Verne" Ferguson for his donation of team belt buckles. Thank you to the Vernonia Ridge Riders for their continued support and to all who donated to our team in one form or another.

Barb Carr, Volunteer Coach
Vernonia High School
Equestrian Team

It's not yet time for Banks "Centennial"

To the Editor:

This letter is to clarify the reported "Centennial of Banks." The City of Banks is not 100 years old. Banks was incorporated in 1921. As is common practice (based on incorporation date) the City of Banks will celebrate its 100th year in 2021. The Banks community began with the arrival of the Peyton and Anna Wilkes family, circa 1840. It was named for the Banks family who arrived during the 1890s. The community has grown for over 150 years.

In 1902 the Postmaster General granted the Banks community the right to establish a Post Office. This Post Office lasted two years, then was closed and moved back to Greenville (south of Banks). After Banks began to grow with the new railroad passing alongside, some new businesses began in Banks. Others moved from Greenville to Banks. In April of 1907, the Post Office in Banks was re-opened. The need for water in the town prompted a vote to incorporate the city. In April of 1921 the voters approved incorporation.

This year, during the Banks Barbecue (August 17-18) the Historical Society will have a (free) open house at the Log Cabin City Park. Historical information and artifacts will be on display. If additional Banks historical data is desired, please call (503) 324-6191 or (503) 324-7955.

Banks Historical Society
Judy Clifford
Sheila Day
Norma Stewart

CASAs can prevent "lost" children cases

To the Editor:

Five year old Rilya Wilson, under the care of the State of Florida, was missing for 15 months. No one knew about it until a few weeks ago. Rilya must be found. The State of Florida also needs to find out who was responsible and hold them accountable. Above all, we need to prevent future tragedies of this sort. Fortunately, we know how.

In Oregon, as in every state, volunteer CASA advocates watch out over cases like this. They help assure that child protection agencies and the courts properly perform their responsibilities to the children. The goal is a safe, permanent home for each child.

Oregon's CASA volunteer advocacy system is particularly strong, because CASA volunteers are full parties to the juvenile case. Which means they have the authority to visit the child, view all records, and appear before the court to speak up for the child. The weakness of the system in Florida, as well as Oregon, is that there are not enough volunteer CASAs for every Rilya that the state is supposed to be caring for.

In Columbia County, we now have 15 volunteer advocates, but unfortunately, it is not enough, demand is high, we need more responsible adults who would like to speak up for our abused and neglected children. It may be too late for Rilya, who did not have a CASA volunteer on her case, but it may not be too late for a little boy or girl in your own neighborhood. New volunteer training begins in late September; please mark your calendar with our chapter's phone number, 503-366-7644, to become a resource for the little ones in our community without someone to speak up for them. If you cannot spare the approximately 10 hours a month it takes to manage a case, perhaps you can help support a volunteer financially with your tax-deductible donation to CASA of Columbia County, PO Box 209, St. Helens, OR 97051.

Respectfully,
Jan Martin
Executive Director
CASA of Columbia County

Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library

This is the library's fifth year in our beautiful building. Please help celebrate our anniversary by attending the programs scheduled Saturday, June 1st. We will host a workshop on bookmaking, taught by Colleen Cavin from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In the evening, we invite you to 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.

The Summer Reading Program theme is "Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading." Sign-ups start June 1st. Schedules for the special programs are available in the library. These programs are geared toward preschool children, and kindergarten to sixth graders. Readers of all ages, including teens and preschoolers, are invited to participate in the reading program. Readers who

complete their goals will be able to choose a free paperback book. There will also be weekly drawings for special prizes.

Saturday, June 8th 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, look for the mixed paper recycle 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.

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.wcccls.lib.or.us.

Ike Says...

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of the clams in your head, count and recount your clams; OSP has zero tolerance for exceeding your limit. If an officer stops you, be polite, but insist that a witness observe the clams being counted and insist that they be counted slowly and deliberately. Also, do not leave the wet sand to count your clams; this is called leaving the beach, and it will be marked on your citation that you intentionally exceeded your bag limit.

The reason for limits on the number of clams you can dig is to protect the resource from over-

harvesting. The question needs to be asked though, why an unlimited number of commercial permits are issued? Of course the commercials do pay for a permit, proof again of how ODF&W manages our resources!

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.