

Letters to the Editor

Collections will be for Fireworks Fund

To the Editor:

We would like to thank everyone who has already donated to the Fireworks Fund. It isn't too late to make a donation. It should be a fun 4th of July - a parade - Cub Scouts and Boosters will have their stands open while we all wait

for the fireworks display.

As reported in the last paper, Vernonia Cares (Bill Yeo) is going to be collecting during the parade, however, not for Vernonia Cares. Bill will be collecting for the Vernonia Pride Fireworks Fund. We would like to thank Vernonia Cares for helping us and, in turn, we plan to help them with an upcoming project. We will also have oth-

ers collecting during and after the parade.

Thank you for your support each year.

Enid Parrow
Vernonia Pride

Never underestimate power of good ideas

To the Editor:

My friend, Jessie Roberts, and I decided to fix up the old

girls' softball field. We knew to do this we would need money so we contacted SOLV (I knew about them because my mom does a lot of stuff with them.).

We asked them if we could get a grant and they gave one to use. We got \$250.00. Then we started working. Steve Landers came down with his tractor and tilled it. Also my dad, Roy Gehrke, brought down his tiller. Then we dragged it with an old railroad tie and fencing.

We ordered bases and the home plate and pitcher's rubber and all the other little things needed and will put them out soon. Hopefully, we will use the field again.

Erin Gehrke
Vernonia

What is purpose of Historical Museum?

To the Editor:

When you wander through the many treasures of an historical museum, you may experience an overwhelming sense of the past and the people who occupied a particular space in time. Emotions run free, surrounded by mementos of the past, and you can draw conclusions as to how the past influences the present.

Conversations with the curator bring forth stories and remembrances of times gone by.

An old photograph may allow you to put a face to a name you've heard, or it may rekindle the memory of an event from the past.

You may view with envy or disdain the fashions of the past, through the wardrobes on display.

A phonograph or music box may cause you to remember what you were doing when you first saw or heard one. (How many of today's youth know what an LP record is?)

A collection of old documents allows you the opportunity to research the past of an area or town.

A historical museum gives today's youth a glimpse into the vibrant past, letting them see roots that have grown through the years. This helps strengthen the generational bond and solidify a lifetime sense of pride in their community that they, in turn, can pass on to their children to help keep a community strong far into the future.

Visitors to the community can witness the ups and downs of the area and gain a better

understanding of why we choose to live where and how we do. In the process, they might decide to return or tell their friends, who might want to visit.

There are many more reasons an historical museum is a benefit to a community and the citizens who reside there, too many to list here.

Personally, an historical museum brings to the surface feelings and emotions I am not always able to experience in the "day to day struggle." It also reminds me that "the struggle" existed before and will continue long after I am gone and, with that knowledge, I am feel a sense of peaceful humility.

Unfortunately, when an historical museum is closed, AS OURS HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, none of the above is possible.

Some of the people who are concerned about the closure of the Columbia County Historical Museum in Vernonia, are trying to find solutions so it can again be open for the public to enjoy. For that reason there will be a Town Hall Meeting at Vernonia City Hall on Monday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m.

We NEED a large turnout of community and area residents who can show their support and offer ideas that will help to open the museum again. This meeting is OPEN TO ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS, not just Vernonians.

Please attend this meeting to show your support for the museum and, more importantly, our community.

Glen Purvee
Vernonia

Flexible Senior Center policy on donations

To the Editor:

To those folks who do and those folks who don't donate goods to the senior center here in Vernonia:

It has been brought to our attention that we (folks who work here) skim the good stuff and it is never put out for sale to the public. Our policy is to keep clean, repaired, usable items. If it is appropriate, some will be used by folks living here. Otherwise, we ship to ARC, St. Vincent dePaul or Goodwill. We also hold back items for gifts, door prizes or - as is coming up - auctions, raffles or "Christmas and Halloween in July."

Please see page 16

Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library

Sign-ups for the Summer Reading Program are well under way! The theme is "Don't Bug Me I'm Reading." Our next free special program will be on Thursday, July 11th. Tom Question will present his show of juggling, comedy, poetry, stilt walking and acrobatics in REALLY BIG way! On Thursday, July 18th, Anne Louise Sterry's program of music and stories, "Guess We'll Go Eat BUGS," is sure to entertain. Steve Taylor and his "dummy" friend will be "Buggy About Books" on Thursday, July 25th. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m., but it's wise to arrive early, as seats are limited! Each week, readers will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for a gift certificate to one of our local booksellers. Ask us how you can join the fun.

Remember, the library will be closed on Thursday, July 4th.

New titles arrive at the library each week! This week, Sue Henry's newest, *Cold Company*, is here. Set in the long summer days of Alaska, this mystery joins the past and the present in a chilling tale. While rebuilding her home on the ashes of her old house, Jessie Arnold discovers a skeleton that is probably tied to a series of murders which occurred twenty years earlier.

Ike Says...

From page 2

an e-mail reply from our District biologist...who I suggested should be fired in my e-mail to Portland. His response contained the usual "we don't see anything wrong" report. I would have to disagree, with last year's buck harvest being only 37 percent of historical highs and 66 percent of recent years' harvest, there is something seriously wrong. My prediction for this year is that less than 500 bucks will be harvested and, in the years following, the harvest will fall off the chart. It's only reasonable to expect that Mr. Beiderback will resign when this happens. Local sportsmen have repeatedly expressed their concern to him, only to be ignored. If I did this on my job, I would not have one for long.

On a more pleasant note, the kayaking has been great. I am slowly getting more confidence in my kayaking skills and have steadily found myself wanting bigger and better water. I have been on two trips to the Clackamas and once to the Sandy. Class III water while putting a knot in your stomach, sure is thrilling. So far the Dodge Park to Oxbow Park trip was the most interesting. The very first rapid is the Class III pipeline, where I watched as my new friend, Alex, got flipped and then rolled back up in the middle. We joked about him doing most of the best rapid on

Now, another woman has disappeared and Jessie is wondering if she will be next. Keep cool with this one!

Also on the shelves are Jean Auel's newest book, *Shelters of Stone*, and the new Tony Hillerman mystery, *The Wailing Wind*. Some of our new non-fiction includes Marlo Thomas' inspirational book *The Right Words at the Right Time*, and Anthony Bourdain's best selling *A Cook's Tour*, about traveling the world in search of the perfect meal. We also have a great selection of books on the Friends' book sale shelves, so you can take a paperback or two on vacation and leave them behind if you want to!

Recycle Saturday, sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library is held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. Library patrons with internet access can browse library resources and reserve materials 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.WILnet.wccclib.or.us.

this run, upside down. I eventually had a swim when I paddled back upstream and took another shot at the Jumping Rock.

The Jumping Rock is a big boulder in the middle of the stream that, at the right water conditions, forms a large water pillow that allows a kayaker to boat right over the top of the rock and free fall into the hole behind the boulder. My run didn't go quite as anticipated and I got forced off the side of the boulder, but somehow ended up in the hole behind it. When I hit the hole, I was a little too sideways and got flipped. I didn't even try my roll, I just wanted out of there! Soon my buddies were towing me to shore and we continued. Near the takeout we started seeing lots of people, since this was the 97-degree day in Portland. Needless to say, the wildlife was very interesting, especially the two young maidens who happened to forget their bathing suit tops. Now I know why kayakers are always smiling.

Catch you on the next wave!

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.