

Letters to the Editor

Founder's family not able to see museum

To the Editor:

I am not sure to whom I should address this letter, but the local paper is always a good resource. During the weekend of June 22-23, 2002, many [members of the] Weeds [family] traveled back to Vernonia after more than 30 years of absence (my wife and I traveled from Atlanta) for a family reunion. One of the members was Mildred, daughter of Oscar Weed and granddaughter of one of the city's founders, Judson Weed (she is also the oldest surviving Weed who was

raised in Vernonia), who came from South Pasadena, Calif.

A major planned event was a visit to the museum. Although prior arrangements had been made, on arrival, the museum was closed. As the clan stood outside, Kathy Weed Johnson attempted to find someone who could accommodate our visit. To our surprise, one person contacted stated that a key was available, but a political fight had developed and the museum is no longer accessible to the public! How disappointing!

While we were there, several people also were interested in visiting. In light of the slogan "discover Vernonia," it seems

the museum would be poised to play an important role for tourism. In our case, we intended to "rediscover Vernonia," but a key asset has been removed. Although we are not educated about the nature of the dispute, we hope that it is quickly resolved so other visitors will not experience the disappointment.

Sincerely,
Roger Weed
 Great-grandson of
Judson Weed
 Duluth, Georgia

Unruly kids, drunks spoil 4th experience

To the Editor:

Vernonia did not feel like a family oriented town this 4th of July weekend. Our adventures began with our first overnight camping trip to Anderson Park, a first time experience that will likely be our last. The constant noise from groups of kids screaming and shouting foul language, skidding skateboards and "drum playing" on the picnic tables, did not end until 10:00 p.m. when they left the park to go home. I was amazed at the young age of these children, the way they acted around others, and the fact that there was no adult supervision at such a late hour. Enforceable rules regarding parental supervision of kids at the park after a certain hour could turn this situation around.

Our second adventure was at the 4th of July fireworks display. Again my family, friends and I were subject to the screams of foul and obscene language, this time by middle aged adolescents who were intoxicated. I have no plans to return next year if visible intoxication and rude behavior around children is permitted. Perhaps the local tavern owners could sponsor a parallel event a few miles away from the rest of us, where alcohol can be served.

Sincerely,
Steven Loders
 Vernonia

Parade and fireworks were a lot of fun

To the Editor:

What a great 4th of July, a little cool, as usual. It's always fun to see all our participants, decked out in red, white and blue, eager to get the parade going. It was great to have Uncle Sam in the parade and the Scouts as our color guard carrying Old Glory. Thank you to Vernonia Cares and the Cheerleaders for collecting donations during the parade and Isabelle McDaniel and Ray Pelster for their money collections. I would like to thank Jenny and Casey for their help handing out ribbons and pins before the parade. They were my "gopher" helpers. A thank you to everyone who took part in the parade.

Thanks to Metro Ambulance, Fire Chief Paul Epler, Volunteer Fire Department guys and gals, City Workers and the Police Department for their help before, during and after the parade. Thank you to the School

District for the use of the school grounds. It's a great place to sit and visit while waiting for the fireworks. Didn't you think our volunteer firemen did a great job with the fireworks display? Thanks to Ed Lokken from St. Helens and our own group - Tim Bamburg, Greg Schaumburg, Luke Heckathorn, Wayne Vaughn, Tom Ramsey, Darrel Wolfe, Jessie Borders, Norm Brown, Darryl Norton, Kody Watts, Emily Sohler and Matt Poetter. Thank you to the people who store the fireworks for us. Elsewhere in the paper is a list of donors to the fireworks and a big thank you from us.

On a sad note, we fell about \$800 short for the fireworks this year, leaving us to wonder what we should do for next year. We depend on donations to pay for the fireworks. The other disturbing thing is, when we ask you to please leave all your own fireworks at home, we wish you would do so. We don't want anyone in the crowd getting hurt. That means each and everyone of you.

If you were up and out the morning of the fifth, you would have seen the group downtown and all the way to the school grounds cleaning up after us. A big thank you to all of you. The clean up crew was Cub Scout Pack 201, their parents, younger brothers and sisters. They asked that I thank you for using the SOLV bags they hand out during the parade. It makes their job much easier. Thanks to everyone.

Enid Parrow
 Vernonia Pride

Belief in God is part of American heritage

To the Editor:

What is our heritage? I believe that the writings of our founding fathers can shed some light on the answer. Let's start with the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; and they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Our forefathers, as "...Representatives of the United States of America," appealed "to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of their intentions...And... with a firm reliance on the protection of Di-

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
 Vernonia Public Library



Kids learn it's fun to read — from a Dummy?

He may be made of wood, but ventriloquist figure Rudy O'Riley is no dummy! Rudy is the star of the "Buggy About Books" show that is coming to the Vernonia Public Library, on Monday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m. This free presentation will be the last of the scheduled programs associated with this year's summer reading at the library. Youngsters may still work toward meeting their reading goals until August 15, when all registration forms must be turned in as well as verification of the number of books read during the summer. A date will be announced for presentation of awards, prizes and the winner of the "buggy" container.

A small group of avid readers has formed a new book discussion group. These readers recently met in the library to discuss their first selection, *The Pact*, by author Jodi Picoult. Opinions regarding the book were expressed and discussed, then the group decided to choose two books to read. The choices are *Winterdance* by Gary Paulsen and *Breakheart Hill* by Thomas Cook. An extra copy of each book has been ordered and anyone interested in reading and discussing these books is encouraged to contact the library.

Personalized comments about authors and their books are beginning to appear in the library. Watch for these comments made by local readers.

Sometimes when people come into the library and see either Susan or me doing something such as returning books to shelves, covering books, applying bar codes, laminating, using one of the computers, etc., they are apologetic about asking questions of us. Be assured that our first and foremost duty is to library patrons—answering questions, helping with computers, copying, helping with the microfilm reader or trying to help patrons however we can. There is not enough funding for more than one staff person to be here at any one time, so we try to do as much as possible in between helping library patrons. Bear

with us and don't hesitate to ask for help.

A question has arisen regarding the use of Large Print books. To date, not many patrons have requested these materials, so the collection is limited. Please contact the library if you feel this is a need that should be addressed.

Notification was received this week that the library has been awarded a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to improve Internet service to the public. With this grant, the library will have two more computers (one being Spanish language convertible), another printer, a Spanish keyboard, and some educational software. With the implementation of all of the equipment, these computers, as well as one already in operation, will all be Internet accessible to the public at the same time—no more sharing one phone line. These computers should be operational before December 2002.

New books this month include *The Mulberry Tree* by Jude Deveraux, *Sunset in St. Tropez* by Danielle Steel, *Turbulence* by John J. Nance, *Cold Company* by Sue Henry, *Chopping Spree* by Diane Mott Davidson, *Fire Ice* by Clive Cussler, *Wings of Fire* by Dale Brown, *The Beach House* by James Patterson and Peter De Jonge, *The Moment She Was Gone* by Evan Hunter, and *The Dive From Clausen's Pier* by Ann Packer.

Remember to drop off books for the Friends of the Library Book Sale at Glen Purvee's building next to miniature golf on Saturday, July 27, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Plants, to be sold at this sale, may also be donated at this time. The big sale will take place Saturday, August 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Some very nice items have been donated and will be awarded to the winners of the raffle drawing to be held in the late afternoon on the third. Don't forget that the next meeting of the Friends of the Library will be Tuesday, August 6, in the library at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, August 5, the library will be open from 7-9 p.m. This will be a trial to see if residents would like to use the "cool" (air-conditioned) building on a regular basis on Monday evenings until the weather cools off.

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.
Phone: (503) 429-1818