

Letters to the Editor

Sunnyside Cafe is closing its doors

To the Editor:

We are sorry to say that we will be closing our doors at Sunnyside Cafe on September 27 at 2:00 p.m. Most of you know that we have been struggling for some time. We just wanted to be able to thank all of you who have supported us for the last 2-1/2 years. We have had a great time and made some wonderful friends, but it is just not possible for us to remain open any longer. We will miss all of you!

Sincerely,
Kelly Sohler
Melissa Hunt
Vernonia

4-H Club appreciates community support

To the Editor:

All Creatures Great and Small 4-H Club would like to thank the following people for all their help and support this year. Thank you, Billy Leach, for supplying the music for the 4th of July parade, Kody Watts for the use of your truck, and Jessica Bergstrom, Linda Graf and Larry and Judy Clements, for your help with the decorations. We all had a great time

celebrating our nation's independence.

We would also like to express appreciation to Gardner's Feed Store and Vernonia Hardware. These companies supported us at the Columbia County Fair this year by purchasing a market pen of rabbits.

Finally, last, but not least, thank you to Grandpa and Grandma Saunders for all of the behind-the-scenes work you do for all of us.

Sincerely,
D'Lisa Watts, Leader
Amanda Watts, Jr. Leader
Billi Avila, Marissa Clement,
Torie Clement, Elliott Graf,
Kim Stringfield,
Mikeal Walter
Vernonia

Riders invited to try out new BMX track

To the Editor:

I am writing to let everyone know that Columbia County now has a real live BMX racing track for the youth of our community. We at Columbia River BMX would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to come to St. Helens' McCormick Park and check out Columbia County's latest attraction for the youth of this area. We are very

excited at being able to bring to this County not only a BMX track, but an American Bicycle Association Sanctioned Track. In just 4-1/2 months from the time the City of St. Helens gave us the green light to build the track, we were running our first races. In just a little over 4 weeks time, we have already signed up over 70 riders, mostly from St. Helens and Scappoose. We know that there are kids all over this County that have not heard about this track. We would like to take this opportunity to invite them, as well. We really would like to see all of the different communities within Columbia County get excited about this. Once again, thank you for your time, and we look forward to seeing you at the track shortly.

Sincerely,
Paul M. Barlow
St. Helens

Sept. 11 ceremony was gratifying

To the Editor:

The Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County would like to thank all those who made the September 12th Remembrance at Columbia View Park a huge success. The ceremony was a fitting tribute

to all who suffered from the effects of that horrible terrorist attack.

A special thanks to Sheriff Phil Derby, Chief George Dunkel, Chaplain John Stetzer, Mayor Don Kalberg, Diane Dillard from Boise-Cascade, Trevor Hall and Forest Viles from the VFW, and many other law enforcement, emergency responders and military personnel, along with private individuals who helped organize this event.

We would also like to acknowledge Steve Atchison, who played taps, bagpiper G.N. Thoen, and Lisa Sigler for singing the Star Spangled Banner. It was gratifying to see such overwhelming public participation. Thank you everyone.

Board of County Commissioners
Commissioner Anthony Hyde
Commissioner Rita Bernhard
Commissioner Joe Corsiglia

Members sought for bike advocacy group

To the Editor:

Columbia County has its own bicycle and pedestrian advocacy group. We are the Columbia County Chapter of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. All of our active members are centered along Highway 30 from Scappoose to Rainier. That is unfortunate because we are not aware of local problem areas around Vernonia, Mist and Clatskanie. We are having our first meeting of the fall season on Thursday, September 26, 2002. We meet at the Columbia Tech. Center in St. Helens, and we would like to extend an invitation to the walkers, runners and bicyclists of these communities to join us at this meeting.

Perhaps in this age of chat-rooms and other electronic communication devices we can figure out a way to unite people in the far flung corners of our county into an effective lobby and educational group. Our meetings are from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M., and they really do start and end on time because they throw us out if we run over. The Tech. Center is located at 375 S. 18th. You can also contact me via e-mail at gdinsmore@columbia-center.org

Gary Dinsmore, Chairman
Columbia County Bicycle
Transportation Alliance
Scappoose

Picnic fun for foster, adoptive families

To the Editor:

On August 24, 2002, Columbia DHS Child Welfare held its annual picnic for foster, relative and adoptive families. The hamburgers, hotdogs and soft drinks provided for the families were supplemented by potluck dishes brought by the families and agency staff. All of the children received prizes for participating in fun games and there were raffle prizes for the families.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many local businesses whose generous donations helped to make this event a success. Those businesses include Blue Moon Gifts, Don's Rentals, El Tapatio Restaurant, Friesen Lumber, Grammy's Used Books & Espresso, Oregon Trails Lanes, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Red Apple, Rite Aid, Safeway, St. Helens Book Shop, Dollar Tree and What's Upstairs.

We would also like to thank Melody Killens for once again organizing the children's games, which is always a highlight of the picnic. It is heartwarming to see how our community values children.

Sincerely,
Sandy McMillan
Columbia Branch Child
Welfare, Community Human
Services
Gail Mitchell
Foster Home Certifier

Promises, promises, time for promises

To the Editor:

Bring your children indoors, lock the doors, and shutter the windows! Possibly you should turn off your radios and television sets as well. "Why", you may ask. The political season is once upon us, that's why.

It is once again "promise season." It's the time of year when many (but not all) political candidates will be telling us how much they will do for us and how we won't have to pay for it. They'll tell us that others should and will pay for what we receive. Who are these others? We will be told that "they" are nasty, profiteering businesses and greedy rich folks.

The truth is quite different. We all pay for current government programs and will pay for

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



We watch movies and read books where (for the most part) the good guy triumphs. Harrison Ford, portraying Jack Ryan in Tom Clancy's thrilling novels of espionage, always out-thinks and out-maneuvers the enemy to save his family and his country. James

Bond, in Ian Fleming's novels and movies always (through the use of all kinds of ingenious devices and maneuvers) wins the struggle and the girl. Lucas Davenport and Lincoln Rhyme, protagonists created by John Sandford and Jeffery Deaver, respectively, solve crimes and save lives time after time. In books and in movies people walk across narrow logs spanning wide and deep chasms, are rescued from burning buildings by grabbing lines attached to helicopters, and escape man-eating sharks. The events of this past week have shown that we live in a real world and that even the most extraordinary individuals cannot always find ways to prevent tragedy.

At times like this, though, fantasy may help by interjecting some diversion from thoughts and news coverage of this horrible event and its pos-

sible consequences. If this is the case, the library has some recent acquisitions that might fulfill this need. These include *Envy* by Sandra Brown, *The Associate* by Phillip Margolin, *The Smoke Jumper* by Nicholas Evans, *Tell No One* by Harlan Coben, *Love Among the Ruins* by Robert Clark, and *Comfort Me With Apples* by Dean Harding McGarity. Remember that, in addition to the books of fiction and non-fiction, the library has a nice collection of audio and videotapes that may be checked out, as well as current issues of 35 magazines. The latest issue of *Northwest Travel* features drives that may be taken to enjoy the beautiful fall leaves, *Family Fun* has some great ideas for Halloween costumes, *Better Homes and Gardens* highlights ideas for fall decorating, and *Crafting Traditions* is full of autumn craft ideas for both inside and outside your home.

The next scheduled meeting for the Friends of the Library will be October 9th, at 1:00 p.m. in the library. Suggestions are still being accepted for the project or projects to best benefit the library with the funds raised during the Jamboree book sale/raffle.

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.
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