

## Letters to the Editor

### Urges approval of Sheriff's levy

To the Editor:

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is severely understaffed and underfunded. The cost of operating the new jail, 911 security concerns and population growth have aggravated this already critical problem.

The Sheriff's Office has dedicated and hard-working employees who do their best to keep our communities safe. But, current funding is simply not enough to adequately protect the public.

The Sheriff's Office currently cannot provide 24 hour coverage. There are only five total patrol deputies to cover all the shifts, 24-7-365.

Despite their hard work and long hours, it often takes deputies hours, and sometimes days, to respond to all but the most serious calls.

The patrol deputies routinely juggle four to seven calls at the same time, and are often many calls behind when they start work. Deputies never seem to get caught up and cannot provide good, thorough complaint investigations.

Deputies get very little time

off and are routinely called in on their off hours to respond to calls. The situation is so bad they often get little sleep between shifts, jeopardizing everyone's safety. They are doing the best they can, but they are tired and frustrated.

The situation is critical. We need an adequately staffed Sheriff's Office. Our safety depends on it. This levy will add additional patrol deputies plus provide funds to help operate and adequately staff the jail.

The average homeowner will pay just \$7.75 a month if this levy passes. That's a small price to pay to keep us all safer. Please vote yes on Measure 5-109.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Hood  
Warren

### Victimized by theft and newspaper report

To the Editor:

If I were asked to describe the [St. Helens] Chronicle newspaper in five words or less, I would describe it as "a dirty little political rag." As a recent burglary victim, I felt personally violated. As a subject of

the Chronicle's misreporting facts of that burglary, I felt violated again by what has often been referred to as the "fourth estate of government." Gee, I wonder what politics has to do with your article concerning the burglary of my residence. I would suggest that anyone who would like to know the true facts concerning the burglary of my residence simply read the September 18 issue of the Scappoose Spotlight, or better yet, read the article entitled *Recall Effort Against Pat Zimmerman Ends After Burglary* which was published in the September 19 issue of The Clatskanie Chief.

Sincerely,  
Mervin Arnold  
Rainier

*Ed. note: The recall election referred to above concerned a member of the Port of St. Helens. The Nehalem Valley area of Columbia County is not part of the Port.*

### Fairgrounds thanks riders for arena use

To the Editor:

The Columbia County Fairgrounds would like to thank those who used the Arena for Open Rides this season. We

appreciate the interest of individuals and groups wishing to ride. The Arena will be open again next April or May, depending on the weather.

If you would like to participate in the Barrel Clinics, or are interested in helping the fairgrounds to make the Open Rides more desirable, please call the Fair Office at 503-397-4231. We are always open to your help and suggestions.

Evelyn Hudson  
Columbia County Fairgrounds  
Fair Administrator

### Explanation of fund recommendation

*Ed. note: The Scappoose Senior Citizens Center, which has started its own transportation service, has asked the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to reconsider awarding all of the available special transportation fund to ColCo Transportation. This letter is in response to their request.*

To the Editor:

Four members of the [Columbia County] Special Transportation Fund Committee (STF) want to explain our reasoning behind our decision to recommend awarding the entire STF funds to ColCo public transportation.

Our County Commissioners appoint members to the STF Committee and we represent the entire county. Four members live in Scappoose, one lives in Vernonia, one in Rainier, one in Clatskanie and one in St. Helens (total 8).

We met five times over two months and five members were in attendance at this last meeting: two from Scappoose, one from Rainier, one from Clatskanie and one from St. Helens. Since we finally had a quorum, we discussed the STF

fund and what recommendations we would give to the Columbia County Commissioners.

We only had two applications, one from ColCo and the other from Scappoose Senior Center, which was submitted at our third STF meeting. There was a motion to give Scappoose some of their monetary request, but no second to the motion. Discussion followed and that motion died. A new motion was made to award all of the funds to ColCo. It was seconded, discussed and passed, unanimously (5-0).

We, therefore, recommended to the Columbia County Commissioners that they award all of the STF funds to ColCo. The following week, the Commissioners voted to follow the STF Committee's recommendation and awarded the funds.

In these difficult economic times, we need to unite in order to provide efficient, safe and reliable transportation to seniors and disabled persons in our county. We feel that there is always room for improvement on any committee or in any organization, and we, who sit on several Boards, Committees and are involved in a variety of activities to benefit seniors in our respective towns and through the county, need to work together to accomplish these goals.

We will continue to work toward these goals and we hope that others will, also.

Sincerely,  
Josephine Claflin  
Scappoose  
Norma Hendrickson  
Clatskanie  
Ruth Brockhaus  
Rainier  
Betty Lou Stickler  
St. Helens

## Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant  
Banks Public Library

Children in grades five and up are invited to join Club Newbery. Centered on the famous Newbery Award for best children's book of the year, this club is designed for young people who love to read - those who, for example, might possibly stay up beyond bedtime just to read! Club members will get to read the latest books, participate in book discussion groups, and vote for the next Newbery Award winner and more! Anyone interested is encouraged to ask for more information at the library. Sign-ups are starting now. Group size is limited to 15. Kick off night will be October 10th, from 7-8:00 p.m.

If you have never checked out a "Cultural Pass to Adventure," now is the time to try it. The World Forestry Center Museum is presenting an exhibit from October 5, 2002, through January 5, 2003, of approximately 50 original Ansel Adams photographs, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Adam's birth. This is one of a kind exhibit that will be shown nowhere else. Nearly 40 of the photos were printed by Adams and are signed by the artist. Adams was not only a nature photographer, he was also an active environmentalist who served on the board of directors of the Sierra Club for 37 years, from 1934-1971. For information on reserving the World Forestry Center Cultural Pass, call the library.

The new books are pouring in! After a slow summer, The Friends of the Library have finally ordered some "hot" titles. The new titles include

Tom Clancy's suspenseful adventure, *Red Rabbit*, and a sparkling romantic novel by Jennifer Crusie, called *Faking It. Must Love Dogs*, by Claire Cook, is a book about a 40 year-old, romantically challenged Pre-School teacher, preparing to go on her first date in about ten years. This is a funny, zany look at the intricacies of dating and family life, as we get to know the family of the main character, Sarah Hurlihy. Other new titles are Sylvia Browne's *Book of Dreams*, and *The Cell: Inside the 9/11 Plot*, and *Why the FBI Failed to Stop It*.

Have you ever wondered about the fat content of that chicken Caesar salad that tastes so good? Are you convinced that ordering a tuna salad sandwich is low calorie? You should check out *Restaurant Confidential* by Michael F. Jacobon, Ph.D. and Jayne Hurley, RD. They are the authors of *The Fast-Food Guide*, the book that taught us all how fattening movie popcorn is. In *Restaurant Confidential*, the authors have researched America's favorite cuisine for fat and calorie content - Chinese, Mexican and Italian. They have also included breakfast foods, Greek cuisine, sweets, and Mall food. Get ready to give up eating out!

**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.wcccls.lib.or.us.

### Two areas will be closed at WGS

From page 1

the board conclusions as follows:

- Continue with mold mitigation and conduct air quality testing.

- Get a structural engineering analysis of WGS as soon as possible. The board did not discuss whether the analysis should include the high school.

- Present findings of mold testing, air quality testing and structural review at a town hall style informational meeting with broad publicity.

- Draw a committee to study solutions to both the short and

long terms needs of the district from the participants of the informational meeting.

### Maintenance Committee recommendations

Director Randy Hansen presented the maintenance committee's recommendations to the board. Examination of the fire alarm systems at both the WGS and the high school by the state fire marshal's office determined that neither system met current standards, according to Hanson and Lewis, and the security system at the high

Please see page 9