

Letters to the Editor, continued

From page 3

governments don't have enough funding and will cut the essentials, (our education, law enforcement, and other public services that is required for health and safety). To me, this is blackmail!

Laws passed ten years ago (Measure 5) put our children at risk everyday in schools that are not only sick with mold, but that are structurally unsound as well, unable to withstand an earthquake. Where is the accountability for the funds the State receives specifically for our schools? Where is our Lottery money being spent that was supposed to be applied towards our schools? I want to know the formula. I want an audit.

The State, not our school districts, control the money we pay out of our homeowner's tax. What results now, is that our children pay the price with unsafe buildings, out dated and understaffed teachers, loss of opportunity, and lack of educational resources to prepare them for the world we hope to send them into. And... based on the current system, our schools never will see enough funding to adequately support our children's education. The law may have been good then, but look where it has landed us.

Soon, my community will be asked once again to vote on a bond that will allow us to tear down our old, sick schools, and replace them with proper facilities to educate our children. This time I am voting YES! I am voting yes because my children deserve to be in a safe environment the eight hours a day they spend away from home. They deserve to eat in a cafeteria that would otherwise be closed down for health reasons. I will vote yes so my children are safe in the event of an earthquake or fire, and so that they can breathe clean air and not deal with chronic illness. I will vote yes to provide funds to my community to take care of its children. I will vote yes because the State that controls all of our funding will not provide us with sufficient money or other means to keep our children safe.

We need to stop the mismanaged and ill directed spending by our state officials. I want an audit of the system currently in place. I want it explained to me why it is never enough! If they can't, it is tax-

tion without representation in its new millennium form.

I challenge our elected officials to manage what we have, to look to other states that have an educational system that works for an example, and to stop bankrupting the people of this beautiful state with more unnecessary taxes that they cannot manage!

I will vote NO on Measure 28 this January, and encourage all Oregonians to do the same! Somehow there has to be a way to put an end to the excess taxation, and if that means turning over support and trust to local bonds that I have a say in, where the money is distributed exactly where it was voted to go, and taking the control away from a State that uses blackmail to raise taxes, who does not provide funding for the essentials with the current taxation available, who is not creative in finding new resources for revenue and funding, (not already taxed to death workers), and who is not held accountable for the taxes they currently control, then that is what I will do. That is my protest!

**Marie Botchie
Vernonia**

Editor's note: Measure 5, referred to above, was not a law passed by the legislature, but a ballot measure passed by the VOTERS that eliminated local control and sent property tax funds for schools to the state for distribution.

Vernonia teens care for their neighbors

Open letter to VHS Staff and Students:

Thank you for all your hard work toward the school's Fall Canned Food Drive to benefit Vernonia Cares Food Bank. You collected 832 pounds of food. Thank you! The Food Bank, and the hungry in and around Vernonia, appreciate you. A special thanks is also extended to the leadership class, which ran the class competition. Thanks, all other teachers and staff, for your assistance to make this project so very successful.

Vernonia Cares' goal is to provide three days worth of emergency groceries, once a month, to needy households in and around Vernonia. Already in 2002 we've served 2,699 people, averaging 245 people per month. This food drive helps provide the food to give

to these clients.

I continue to be pleasantly surprised at the generosity of Vernonians. You, the students of Vernonia High School, add to the demonstration that Vernonia Cares!

Gratefully,
**Sandy Welch, Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank**

United Ways join in thanks to volunteers

To the Editor:

The United Ways of Cowlitz, Clatsop and Columbia Counties said thank you, November 14, to the Georgia Pacific employees who worked so hard during the recent United Way campaign, at a celebration at the Berry Patch in Westport. There was fantastic news, they beat their goal by three percent raising \$180,546 for these United Ways. What a great job!

We had a wonderful meal by candle light, there was a power failure. Kay Krist and her crew at the Berry Patch served dinner with out a glitch, even in the dark. Thank you Kay and staff for everything.

Representatives from all

three United Ways presented awards to each of the volunteer campaigners and thanked them for a job well done. I think the circumstance of the lights going off and on just reinforced the dedication and enthusiasm shown by everyone who works on this campaign to help people in need in their communities. Everyone maintained their composure and continued as if the whole event had been planned this way. We are truly blessed to have Georgia Pacific and their employees in our communities helping us change lives.

Thank you Georgia Pacific employees, management and

Foundation for a fantastic United Way Campaign.

**Kathye Beck,
Executive Director
Johneta Johnson, President
United Way of
Columbia County**



**TRAVEL
PACKAGES
BY WAYNE**

—WORLDWIDE—

Hawaii
Mexico

Las Vegas • Disney • Europe
Now in your neighborhood

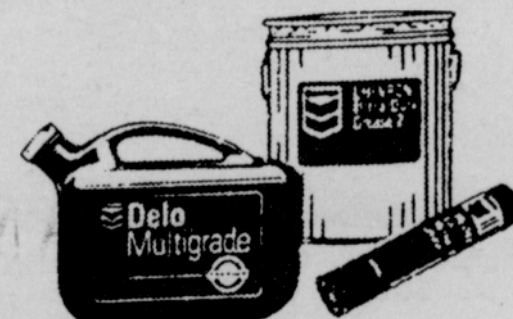
503-755-2100

1-888-297-1298 Toll Free

Run with Extra Confidence with Chevron DELO 400™ PLUS MOTOR OIL

The name you
trust for:

- Gasoline
- Diesel Fuel
- Oils • Solvents
- Additives • Greases



Winter is here...see us for



ANTI FREEZE HEATING OIL



CALL

(503) 429-6606



WILCOX & FLEGEL

720 Rose Avenue • Vernonia

WEATHER REPORT NOVEMBER 2002

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO	PRECIP. AMT.
1	54 10	--
2	57 10	--
3	61 18	--
4	57 23	.02
5	59 28	.09
6	52 36	.09
7	52 43	.64
8	49 42	.46
9	49 41	.30
10	50 36	.13
11	48 44	.21
12	49 42	.50
13	50 44	.38
14	47 36	.02
15	49 31	.06
16	52 39	.64
17	52 36	T
18	50 44	.28
19	54 43	T
20	59 37	--
21	57 38	T
22	52 47	T
23	53 40	--
24	54 26	--
25	49 22	--
26	53 23	--
27	60 24	--
28	57 24	--
29	56 23	--
30	57 24	--

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Measurable precipitation in November totalled 4.02 inches.