

Letters to the Editor

Cynicism unneeded in local government

To the Editor:

It's real easy to get cynical about national politics, when of 435 elections for the U.S. House, only half a dozen were actually contested, and three of those were in Iowa, which has a non-partisan electoral commission.

Don't be a cynic locally. You can make a difference. The school board, the fire board, several county boards...they all depend on what are, essentially, volunteers. People like you, who will spend a little time seeing to it that the systems continue to operate. You don't get paid money for these jobs. You get paid by the satisfaction of helping.

Three positions on the Vernonia fire board are up for election this year. Mine is one. I intend to retire, after twelve years. Someone will be elected to take that position and the other two. As a board member, you would set policy and pass budgets. You will not, as a fire board member, hold a hose at a fire. You would not, as a school board member, teach arithmetic. Boards hire a chief or a superintendent to be the executive and run the outfit, although all boards, being human, tend to micromanage

their executives.

To see if you would like to volunteer (run for election), go to a board meeting or two. Almost all meetings, by Oregon law, are open to the public. Watch the board in action and decide if you want to help. If you do, the filing deadline is March 20. Of course, some or all of the incumbents on these boards may file for reelection, but hey, that's what voting is all about, at least locally.

**Frazier Rohm
Vernonia**

More details on ODF timber land trade

To the Editor:

I was gratified to see that the ODF decided to inform our city of the impending land trade between Longview Fibre and the state. I have been aware of the trade since early December, and some details were misreported in the article. Longview Fibre is willing to exchange 4,228 acres of their land for 3,404 acres of state land. Despite the 800 acre difference, the state declares that their land is worth almost \$1 million more than the Longview land. I had difficulty with a lot of the state calculations, especially the use of a 7.25% discount rate, but the primary difference

in value appears to be in the quality of standing timber.

The state decided to sell the standing timber on two parcels prior to the sale in order to equalize the trade value and meet their harvest quota. The Selders Creek timber was auctioned on December 17th, 2002 (not in August) to Olympic Forest Products at a cruised price of \$4.1 million.

Timber on another ODF parcel involved in this trade, East Deep Creek, was auctioned in May of 2002 to Hampton Tree Farms for \$3.2 million. ODF policy states that trades cannot happen if the values are too wildly unbalanced, so it seems that ODF has "cut and run," taking \$7.3 million in timber in order to make this trade happen.

I suspect that in light of several recent lawsuits against the ODF, they may become more willing to open up their processes to public scrutiny. After all, they have been entrusted with the management of public lands, a duty that has a real long range implication to the fiscal stability of the state, the county, and most importantly, the people that work in the woods.

**Bill Langmaid
Vernonia**

Ed. note: All dates, dollar and acreage amounts in the article

were supplied by ODF Forester Tom Savage, or came from information printed by ODF. If there were errors, they were unintentional on our part.

Critical analysis is missing from trade

To the Editor:

Whoops! The Vernonia water supply? Clear cutting the wooded slopes of its basin? Duhhh! I mean, give me a break. This is a no brainer. I thought graduate business schools at least taught critical analysis in the absence of fair play, even if only to cover lead footed shoe prints. But maybe this is just another sign of the times. This lustful behavior for a perceived "must-have" corporate piece of real estate is crass.

This act violates everyone in the political-social spectrum: on the left, on the right, in the middle and off-the-map. It even includes hard working independent contractors, truck drivers, lumber workers and employees of both the State and Long Fibre who live in Vernonia. Everyone lumped into one holding-pen in harm's way: old, young, infant, adult. Their health does not matter. And for what? Of course, I don't even need to say it. We all know. Well, if Enron can do it to the World, what's a few hundred acres in Vernonia? What hurts was the demonstrative 3 days notice to the city. Dumb! Does anyone know a good lawyer? On the other hand, Long Fibre and the State could get back together, do some editing and eliminate the problem. Question is, are they up to it?

**Jack Phillips
Vernonia**

Measure 5-103 would put more kids at risk

To the Editor:

An initiative (Measure 5-103) placed on the March ballot by the Constitution Party would have serious effects on the health of our teenage girls. If passed, it would require teenagers to get parental consent before receiving any public services, including mental health counseling and medical care.

The Journal of the American Medical Association published a carefully designed statistical study (Aug. 8, 2002) on this subject. Set in Wisconsin, 1118

girls younger than 18 were asked what effect mandatory parental notification would have on their current use of Planned Parenthood health care services. 59% said they would stop using all sexual health care services, delay testing or treatment for HIV or other STDs, or discontinue use of specific sexual health care services rather than informing their parents.

Of course we all wish that every girl could go to her parents with every need. But that's not reality. For whatever reason, well more than half of the girls in this study would forgo needed medical testing and treatment if Wisconsin had a law like Measure 5-103.

This Measure would put the kids most at risk at further risk. It attempts to legislate communication between parent and child, which simply doesn't work.

Please vote No on Measure 5-103.

**Pat Zimmerman
Scappoose**

Council is right to protect watershed

To the Editor:

I want to express my gratitude to the City Council for watching out for our drinking water quality and supply. Leaving no timber in our watershed is cutting water levels to the lowest levels ever. Running out of water is a real threat we must tackle before it is too late. Several streams dried up completely last summer which have not done so in my many years here. Though there was more rain than the previous year, and cooler weather, these watersheds had been almost completely clearcut in the last 15 years; with new ones in the last two. It's long past time to draw the line.

Our people have unwittingly suffered from toxic waste poisoning up stream where there is no filtration. There are those around them who will continue to suffer much of their lives with the harmful effects of herbicide in their drinking and bathing water, especially young children. Herbicide is poisonous. Now the state, who is supposed to be obligated to protect water quality and supply, wants to put a steep 214 acre clearcut right where much of our water comes from and spray it with toxic herbicide which can im-

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Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



The Friends of the Banks Public Library will be hosting several events this winter/spring 2003. Colleen Cavin will be teaching an art workshop called "Simple Relief Printmaking." The workshop is free and will be held Saturday, February 22, 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All materials will be provided. Ms. Cavin is a Fulbright Scholar who teaches classes in calligraphy and bookbinding at Portland Community College. Class size is limited to 25 participants age 10 or above, unless the child is accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. Innisfree will be making a return appearance to play their unique style of traditional Irish music. Last year's program was a huge success and very well attended! Both of these programs are sponsored by WCCLS.

If you want to get involved in any of the volunteer/fundraising events sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library, why not start by attending a meeting? Planning for the Friends' Annual Plant & Book Sale will begin Tuesday, Feb 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Additional meet-

ings will be held at 7:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month in March & April also. The Plant & Book Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meetings are almost always over by 8-8:30 p.m. For information or to volunteer, please call the library.

Winter is a great time to catch up on reading. The library has some new bestsellers and adult award winners to explore. Daniel Mason's *The Piano Tuner* is a first novel about a nineteenth century British piano tuner who is sent deep into Burma where a rare "Erard" grand piano is in need of repair. Edgar Drake has to leave his wife and his quiet, comfortable life in London to travel across Europe, the Red sea, India and into Burma, meeting tale tellers, mystics, bandits and soldiers along the way.

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, at the Swatco yard on Sellers Road.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays, 10:15
a.m., when school is in session.
Phone: (503) 324-1382
Internet: www.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us.
to browse library resources or to
reserve materials electronically.