

## Letters to the Editor

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due to state mandate, but it will not be available for 1-2 years at the earliest. Realistically, we should not expect any official documents for 4-5 years.

The letter also addressed the policies and procedures O.D.F. uses when involved in proposed sales/trades of state land with private industry. The obvious concern being that Selders Creek is located in Vernonia's only watershed, yet the city was not even notified until just before the deadline for public input. This lack of notification was due to many reasons. I do not feel any of them

were malicious, but it is very clear that the policies and procedures of O.D.F. need to be revisited. The fact that negotiations were ongoing for almost three years and the city didn't find out about it until the last few weeks begs for restructuring of protocol.

Contrary to the belief of a few people, the letter the city sent to ODF to make them aware of our concerns, is NOT the only reason for the delay in this sale/trade. There were many other letters from individuals and groups in Clatsop County and other areas who had a lot more prior notification

than the city did. Due to the short notice the city received and the state's policies on time frame for public input, we were "under the gun" to have something on record with the state.

Because of the lack of rain-fall/snow pack the past few years and the generally recognized shortage of water in the northwest area, just having water, to say nothing of the quality of said water, is a top priority for every city. It has been reported recently that, without a large increase in rain and snow in the next couple of months, Oregon will face a drought similar to 1981. Without doing a com-

plete watershed assessment of Rock Creek, as was done for the Nehalem River a few years ago, we have no scientific proof of the effects more logging will have on the water supply realized from the headwaters of Rock Creek, Vernonia's sole watershed.

I was elected to represent the citizens of Vernonia and, along with my fellow Councilors, the Mayor, and city staff, I feel we are accomplishing a lot for the short and long term benefit of our community.

One of my major concerns for many years has been the issue of water and access to it. Until we have firm scientific studies from impartial sources it would be very irresponsible of me, as a city councilor and a concerned private citizen, not to question both state and private entities whose activities might cause undue suffering to our community.

Glen Purvee  
Vernonia

### No deterioration of Rock Creek water

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on your "Sky is Falling" articles of 1-16-03 regarding a State timber sale located in the upper reaches of the Rock Creek Drainage.

Regarding your concern about oversight of the logging, you must understand that the removal of timber in this State sale will be done by a fully insured Logging Company with professional credentials. Any timber harvest in the State of Oregon must comply with the Forest Practices Act, which is the most stringent Forestry Law in the world. This law is strictly enforced.

When discussing water quality for the City of Vernonia, you must consider the fact that logging in the area of Rock Creek and its tributaries has been ongoing for 90 years, without deterioration of water quality. If water quality is not now a problem and has never been a problem in the past, it's without question that logging activity will not create a problem in the future.

Rest easy, Mr. Editor, the "Sky is not Falling" and all is well in the watershed.

Sincerely,  
Derl Roberts  
Vernonia

### At-risk youth need County services

To the Editor:

Within the next two weeks, everyone in Columbia County will be receiving a ballot in the mail. Very few people are aware of this upcoming election. For most people in the county there will only be one measure to vote on...Measure 5-103. For Scappoose voters, there will also be a school bond measure.

#### What is Measure 5-103?

This measure would require that any person under the age of 18 be required to have written parental consent prior to receiving any county service other than life-threatening emergency services.

#### What does this mean?

It means that our most vulnerable young people under 18 who do not come from loving, caring families would be deprived of the very services they may most need: counseling for drug and alcohol addiction, suicide prevention, treatment for sexually transmitted disease, protection from sexual or physical abuse by a parent or other family member or friend. Current state and federal laws mandate that services be provided to those between 15 and 18. Voting **NO** would keep those laws as they are, protecting all young people, not just those over 18.

So please, when your ballot arrives, don't just recycle it. Mark No and keep the county services needed by our most at-risk youth.

Nancy Federici  
St. Helens

### Parents should care for their children

To the Editor:

I'm pleased to see that Columbia County citizens will have an opportunity to vote for a truly pro-family ballot measure on March 11. Passage of Measure 5-103 would affirm that parents, not the government, are the responsible decision makers for minor children. Vote "Yes" to protect your minor child. Vote "Yes" to ensure a parent's right to know.

Sincerely,  
Craig Major  
Newberg

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## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Hooray! January 2003 set a new record for circulation in the library, and not by some insignificant amount, but by over 350 items. Circulation for January was 2,172. This was the first month during which more than 2,000

items were checked out and is more than triple the circulation of January 1999, the last year in the old building. Isn't this just incredible?

Patron use of the library for other purposes has also increased tremendously. With the activation of the new Gateway computers for Internet access, it is not uncommon to find all three public computers in use at the same time. With tutoring, studying, reading, children's programs, and meetings taking place in the library, it is a **busy** place.

Cataloguing is an ongoing process with two very dedicated library board members, Judy Thiringer and Myron Lane, regularly entering data nearly every week. At present the library collection consists of 15,676 titles and 16,642 copies. When cataloguing was started in mid-2000, an estimate of 10,000 items in the collection was made and was set as the goal for completion of the project. The library collection has thus grown by over 50% in the past three years. Each of these items has not only been entered in the collection, but has been bar-coded, labeled and protectively covered. Volunteers and staff are also kept very **busy**.

An event to mark on your calendar is Saturday, March 8th. On that day at 3 p.m., Ann Fulton Ph.D. will present a slide program and lecture in the library. Professor Fulton is the author of *Vernonia, A Pocket in the Woods*, the history of Vernonia that was published in 1997. The afternoon's presentation is entitled, "Vernonia's Historic Buildings, The Stories Behind the Facade" and will complement the research being done by Vernonia Pride in their attempt to identify and label buildings with their original purpose and ownership. This promises to be a fun, light-hearted look at Vernonia and refreshments will be served. A limited number of copies of Professor Fulton's book will also be available for purchase at this time.

The book discussion group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library and all interested persons are invited to attend. The two books chosen for reading and discussion this month were *Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris and *A Dream of Wolves* by Michael White. As new books and authors are introduced, not all members are necessarily in agreement regarding the writing, but each has been introduced to at least one author whose writings have been an incentive to seek further works by that author.

New acquisitions include *The First Law* by John Lescroart, *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham, *The Bone Vault* by Linda Fairstein, *The King of Torts* by John Grisham, *The Best Revenge* by Stephen White, *Silent Partner* by Stephen Frey, and *A box of Matches* by Nicholson Baker. My recommendation for the month is *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson. This is the story of four children living in northern Ontario as they struggle to stay together after their parents die in an automobile accident. Narrated by Kate (the next to youngest child) the tale is told in flashback mode starting with the fatal car accident and climaxing with 26-year-old Kate attending the 18th birthday celebration for her nephew. This debut novel by Mary Lawson is a beautifully crafted story of love, death, and redemption and I am looking forward to future novels by Ms. Lawson.

Renewals of membership in The Friends of the Library may be paid in the library with the next scheduled meeting to be April 1st at 7:00 p.m. Start saving books for the book sale to be held during Jamboree. All proceeds from this sale will benefit the library. The family pass to the Children's Museum has been renewed for this year with some of the proceeds from last summer's book sale. This is available to be checked out in the library.

Reading Enrichment programs will continue through the end of the school year at 3:30 on Mondays when school is in session and preschool story/activity times are also on Mondays at 10:30 in the library. Youngsters and parents are encouraged to participate in these programs.

**Vernonia Public Library:** 701 Weed Ave.m  
**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