

## Letters to the Editor

### Donkey basketball was a huge success

To the Editor:

The donkey basketball game was a huge success, far beyond anything Vernonia Pride anticipated. We would like to give a big THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helped - 28 donkey riders/basketball players, pooper scoopers who were ready with mops and shovels, emcee Randy Parrow, Vernonia Mercantile for donating a raffle prize, the school district for the use of the gym, the VHS tech crew, the junior class for running the concessions, and Brett Eagleson for all his help in setting up and cleaning up.

The enthusiasm and support were fantastic.

Vernonia Pride has many projects planned for this year: new garbage receptacles down town built by Alan Hein, hanging baskets with real flowers, flowers in the garbage receptacles, a donation to Shay Park, flowers and plants in parks, walking tour, 4th of July fireworks, planting around downtown ornamental trees, and a framed picture of downtown Vernonia in the 1920s to be hung at city hall.

The most ambitious project, headed by Enid Parrow, is to create a Historic Walking Tour of downtown businesses. Several people have been meeting to research when the buildings

were built, etc. Plaques will be made and placed on each building. There will also be a booklet with the walking tour that will have additional information and other interesting facts about Vernonia.

Thanks again to all who made our fundraiser such a success. As you can see we have a lot of projects planned for the money we make.

Another thing coming up is Make Vernonia Shine Day. This year it will be on Saturday, April 26. Mark your calendars and come on down.

We will also have a bake sale March 15 at Sentry Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come on down and get some goodies.

**Donna Webb for Vernonia Pride**

### Flamingo flock gone, but they will return

Dear Flamingo Recipient, and the Editor:

Thank you so much for playing with us last month. You were all such good sports and very generous. We had a great time sending greetings to all of you from many of you. I hope you were very surprised when you awoke in the morning to the lovely flock of pink flamingoes that graced your front lawn. You are all very special! The flamingoes have had to fly south to warmer climes; however, they have assured me

that they will return to Vernonia next February, as they have truly enjoyed your hospitality and friendship. This is a first for our troop and although we have tried to give receipts to all who donated, we may not have been successful. If you need a receipt for your donation, please call Jill at 3900, or Juana at 7024.

Sincerely,  
**Rebecca Brookins**  
Committee Chair, Troop 201  
Vernonia

### Immigrants must act like Americans

To the Editor:

After reading an editorial published by a Tampa, Florida newspaper, stating that the state of Florida had now changed its opinion and was allowing Muslim women to have their picture on their driver's license while wearing a mask, I have to ask myself this one thing, "When is enough, enough?"

Immigrants, not Americans, must change and adapt to our ways. I am growing sick and tired of a nation worrying whether or not we are offending someone's culture. The dust and smoke of the terrorist attack of Sept. 11 had hardly settled before the "Political Correct Crowd" was worrying that our patriotism might be offending others.

I am not against immigration if it is done for the right reason. Our nation's population mainly is made up of immigrants who came to America to better their selves. However, there are some things an immigrant, as well as the Political correct bunch must understand. This idea that American being a multi-cultural community whose sole purpose is of serving the cultural whims of immigrants has only weakened our sovereignty and our nation's original aim and purpose. We have our own culture, our own society, our own language and lifestyle. A culture that has developed over centuries of troubles and trials and what millions of men and women have fought and died for has left it to us as a sacred trust.

We speak English in America, not Spanish, Arabic, Chinese or any other language under the sun. Therefore, if an Immigrant wishes to become a part of America, let him or her learn to speak our language.

"In God We Trust" is our national motto. Not because of some right winged political slogan declares it so, but rather it was adopted by Christian men and women based upon bible principles who founded this

great nation of ours. This is clearly documented in our constitution as well as the writings of our forefathers. No school in America should be ashamed to hang it proudly from its walls. If the word "God" offends you, I suggest you find another part of the world in which to hang your hat. God is part of America's culture, like it or leave it.

If you have a desire to burn the stars and stripes or you hate Uncle Sam, you should seriously consider a move to another location on the planet. We Americans are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you come from. This is our country, our land and its our lifestyle. The first amendment gives you the right to express your opinion, but once you have done your griping, whining and complaining, about our flag, our pledge of allegiance, our national Motto, our lifestyle, I encourage you to take advantage of another great American freedom, just pack your bags and leave. As far as I am concerned, America don't need you.

**Juneious F. Harty**  
Scappoose

## Rep. Johnson will hold Town Hall meeting in Vernonia on Saturday

State Representative Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) has scheduled a series of town hall meetings to discuss the continuing budget issues and potential responses. She will meet with Vernonia area residents on Saturday, March 8 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., at the Scout Cabin.

With respect to the budget, Johnson indicated that the State's financial future continues to look bleak.

"The total projected revenue shortfall for the remainder of this biennium is \$300 million and, when you factor in other issues, such as long-term care reimbursement and hospital reimbursement in the Department of Human Services, we find ourselves \$344 million in the hole," Johnson said.

Johnson continued, "When you consider that the total of the sources of revenue available to us is \$308 million, which includes the entire Education

Stability Fund; securitization of the tobacco settlement; lottery funds and all other sources, we are still fiscally out of balance. In other words, if we root out every last penny of money available to us, we'll still come up \$35.7 million short for the current budget cycle."

"The current budget issue before us should be a wake-up call to all Oregonians. It is our summons to begin serious work on a new system of State budgeting. Unless we do so, we run the risk of finding ourselves in the same untenable position - year after year, biennium after biennium, - either cut services and ruin the lives of countless people, or take some inadequate stop-gap measure," Johnson said.

"There will not be any easy answers" Johnson stated, "I am looking forward to discussing the issues and listening to what my constituents are thinking."

To die for an idea; it is unquestionably noble. But how much nobler it would be if men died for ideas that were true!

— H. L. Mencken

## Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant  
Banks Public Library



Help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day by attending a free concert on Saturday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m.! Innisfree will be making a return appearance to play their unique style of traditional Irish music. This program was a big hit last year and is bound to be fun.

Come early because we'll be packed!

Preschool Story time at the Banks Library is a very fun way to introduce the library to your toddler or preschooler. The group of children is usually smallish enough so that even shy children can be engaged. Miss Cathy is loads of fun! Themes for March are:

March 5th, "Love Bugs"

March 12th, "Little, Big, Bigger"

March 19th, "Friendship"

Remember that story time is cancelled March 26, during Spring Break.

One of the new books that the library has recently acquired is *Homecoming*, by Natasha Radojic-Kane. When the main character, Halid, a war hero, returns to his village following the

Bosnian War, he finds that many challenges await him. Though his village was spared heavy combat, it was completely destroyed. Food is scarce and Christians and Muslims, once friends, are now enemies. Over three days Halid searches his village for his past. What he finds is total upheaval. *Homecoming* is much more than a book about one man; it is also about a tight-knit community torn apart by the politics of vengeance, brutality and ethnic bias.

The Friends of the Banks Public Library Plant & Book Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For information or to volunteer, please call the library. There will be a selection of perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees, and possibly some vegetable starts. Be prepared to peruse the large collection of both used and new books available.

**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.wccs.lib.or.us](http://www.WILnet.wccs.lib.or.us).  
to browse library resources or to  
reserve materials electronically.