

## Letters to the Editor

### Make Vernonia Shine event April 26th

To the Editor:

Make Vernonia Shine day this year will be Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration will be at the Providence Health Center. The annual event is sponsored by Vernonia Pride and there will be a free barbeque afterward at the Scout Cabin for everyone who helps make Vernonia shine. If you have any questions or suggestions call 429-5201.

Large groups are encouraged to register early. We have some openings for site leaders to take charge in certain areas. Anyone interested may call the number above.

As usual, we will be looking for weedeating to be done, mainly at Vernonia Lake. We will also be cleaning at the Museum grounds and around Shay Park.

Donna Webb, for  
Vernonia Pride

### Suspicionless drug testing is a violation

To the Editor:

I am writing you concerning the issue of random drug testing in schools. I think it is an incredibly invasive act and violates a student's fourth amendment right of search and seizure.

According to cases past, courts have ruled that drug testing is considered a search. A search of a student through a urine sample violates his/her locker was searched.

In 1985, in the Supreme Court Case of New Jersey v. TLO, the court ruled that a school may only search a student with "reasonable suspicion." A random drug test of student athletes and those who participate in extra-curricular activities demonstrates no such suspicion whatsoever. The only argument posed is that athletes have diminished privacy rights and people involved with clubs

are setting an example for the community. Extra-curricular activities, said by the National Education center, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, are the best way to keep your child from using drugs; instead of putting up obstacles like drug testing, schools should engage in more useful activities.

In the case of Vernonia School District v. Acton in 1995, the Supreme Court said that the drug testing was justified because there was a perceived drug abuse problem in the school. What about all the schools that random drug test students with no suspicion?

Random drug testing in schools is not justified. It is nothing more than a violation of student's rights to privacy.

Thanks,

Katelyn Applegate  
Mount Tabor High School  
Winston-Salem, N. Carolina

### Voters thanked for defeating M5-103

To the Editor

On behalf of Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity (CCCHD) and Protect All Oregon Kids (PAOK), we would like to thank the voters of Columbia County for their participation in the March Special Election. We are especially grateful and thankful to our friends, neighbors, volunteers and supporters for their efforts in defeating Measure 5-103. Thanks to all of you, the kids who could not vote will continue to receive the county services that state law and social service agencies have deemed are important for them to have. Columbia County can be proud of the voter turnout and our participation in an inclusive democracy.

Sincerely,

Kathy Grimes, St Helens  
Craig Frasier, Scappoose

### Thanks to many for helping feed others

To Vernonia Cares Food Bank Supporters:

Due to the generosity of over 75 people and businesses in November and December of this past year, 121 Christmas holiday boxes (serving 434 people) were dispensed. This project was above the food bank's regular monthly food boxes. I was extremely pleased to see so many people assisted with their Christmas dinner groceries. Cares was able to provide all the basic food for the meal, as well as a turkey or ham in every box! The food allowed households to enjoy a holiday meal together. Thank you, contributors, for your openhanded assistance to the hungry in and around Vernonia!

Sandy Welch, Director  
Vernonia Cares Food Bank

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Have you noticed the new "OPEN, CLOSED" sign at the library? This attractive, eye-catching, book-shaped sign was made and donated by Midge Skene.

The Saturday, March 8th, event featuring Ann Fulton was a huge suc-

cess. The long-time residents of Vernonia were anxious and willing to share their memories of earlier days. The new speaker system, purchased for the library by The Vernonia Study Club with proceeds from their last Silver Tea, enabled all in attendance to hear Ms. Fulton as she related the history pertinent to some of the more notable buildings in the community.

Plans for National Library Week (April 6-12) are being finalized. Special presentations during the week will include an appearance by Muggins the Clown, a reading and activity by Susan Blackaby (the author of *Rembrandt's Hat*), and story telling by local resident Clark McGaugh. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Activities will include coloring contests and guessing the number of items in special containers. Prizes will be awarded for these activities. Book bags will be presented to each person checking out three or more books during the week. Watch for flyers with more information about National Library Week.

New acquisitions include *The Cat Who Brought Down the House* by Lillian Jackson Braun, *Flashback* by Nevada Barr, *Aunt Dimity Takes A Holiday* by Nancy Atherton, *The Secret Hour* by Luanne Rice, and *Someone to Watch Over Me* by Judith McNaught.

The highly anticipated book by Edward and

Gregory Kamholz and Jim Blain, *The Oregon-American Lumber Company, Ain't No More*, has recently been added to the library's collection. This illustrated history of one of the most important lumber firms in the Pacific Northwest, operating from 1922 until its closure in 1957, is based on fifteen years of extensive research. Included in the book as sidebars are engaging oral histories related by employees of Oregon-American. In memory of their fathers, both of whom who worked in the mill, Owen and Claudine East have donated a copy of this book of local historical importance to the library.

The next meeting of The Friends of the Library will be Tuesday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Persons wishing to support the library through this organization are encouraged to attend.

*The Shipping News* by Annie Proulx is the book chosen by the book discussion group for this month. This group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to join this informal group is certainly welcome to attend.

Pre-school youngsters and their parents are encouraged to attend the regular Monday morning story time at 10:30 and grade school children are invited to the after-school Reading Enrichment program on Monday afternoons at 3:30. This group will be finishing the reading of *Charlotte's Web* (the last portion to be presented in the form of a play.) Both of these groups meet only when school is in session.

**Vernonia Public Library:** 701 Weed Ave.  
**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.  
**Preschool Story Time:** Mondays, 10:00  
a.m., when school is in session.  
**Phone:** (503) 429-1818

## Candidates busy filing papers for school and fire board positions

With a day left to file nomination papers for the May Special District elections, it appears that there will be several contested seats.

The Vernonia Rural Fire Board has six candidates for three positions. Incumbents Don Skinner and Steve Roberts are being challenged by Tim Bamburg and Jeremy Woodall, respectively, for positions 2 and 4. Position 3, an open seat vacated by Frazier Rohm, also has two candidates, Joseph Batty and Bill Cota.

The Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District, with four positions, has at least one race forming, with incumbent Ray Kyser challenged for Position 1 by Stephen Butsko. Trish Wright and Troy Hor-

ton have filed for positions 4 and 5, but Position 2 remained vacant with only one day to file.

Vernonia School District incumbents Randy Hansen, Position 2; Tim Titus, Position 3; and Darrell Hamblet, Position 7, have filed nomination papers, but Position 1 remained vacant.

Kathy Denckla has filed for reelection to Position 4 on the Columbia Communications District. Connie Budge is running unopposed for Position 2 and Dee Wooly will meet Jeff VanNatta in a contest for Position 1.

Thus far, Candace Cole is the only candidate for Position 2, the county-wide seat on the Northwest Regional ESD.

### THOUGHTS ON MONEY

Could I climb to the highest place in Athens, I would lift my voice and proclaim, "Fellow citizens, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth and take so little care of your children to whom one day you must relinquish it all."

Socrates (470-399 B.C.)  
Greek Philosopher

Bernard Baruch went to his father to tell him he had made his first million. His father did not seem impressed.

"I am not even thirty and I already have my first million—and you're not even happy?" Baruch asked.

His father replied, "No my son, I am not impressed. What I want to know is how you will spend it."

Bernard M. Baruch (1870-1965)  
American statesman and financier