

Letters

An inexpensive help for home heating

To the Editor:

Most of us who heat with wood noticed, a few years back, when the other paper changed to a paper stock with less wood pulp and more clay. It doesn't burn. But *The Independent* has not so changed. In fact, our local paper has added a new feature, that some of the editorials (and the letters about them) are so incendiary that one doesn't need matches – just roll the paper up and blow gently – it will light itself!

Cordially,
Frazier Rohm
Vernonia

Vernonia emergency response impressive

To the Editor:

I just wanted to write to express my observations on the Vernonia Fire Department.

We responded to a rollover accident last week with our tow truck. I was impressed with the professionalism and action taken by the EMT/Rescue and Volunteer firefighters. Fire Chief Paul Epler and his crew handled the traffic and situation

very well. They are a credit and asset to our community.

D & R Towing
Vernonia

Be responsible, spay and neuter your cats

To the Editor:

Recently, my family had the opportunity (again) to rescue a kitten. This poor creature is about 12 weeks old – a cute little tortoise shell grey kitty. The little guy's eyes are stuck shut with discharge, and it breaths with such difficulty, that you can hear each breath rattling its lungs. Surprisingly, this sick cat has an appetite too – he ate like it was his first meal in days.

We have four cats – all rescues, and cannot add another cat to our family. No local vets could donate their services to help this kitty – understandably so, because there are so many strays. The Humane Society in St. Helens would not take him, since he is sick, and they do not have the funds to take care of sick animals. Apparently, Columbia County Animal Control does not deal with cats – just dogs.

Kitty is sleeping in a box on my porch now, with at least

some food, milk, and a comfy towel. We can't let him in the house and risk our other cats' health. Tomorrow morning we will take him to the Bonnie Hays Animal Shelter in Hillsboro. He will probably be euthanized.

This could have been avoided, if people would take responsibility and have pets spayed or neutered. I am sick of seeing people in this town let their animals reproduce when they know that there are not enough homes for all of these animals.

Pets are not born to be thrown away – just tossed aside when you are tired of them. Pet ownership is a long term commitment and responsibility. If you have a cat, get it spayed or neutered – please, don't just let it reproduce more inbred, ill kittens.

I've spent a whole day on the phone, trying to find out what could be done for this abandoned, sick cat. My kids are heartbroken to see it suffer. It is very difficult for them to understand how people can be so irresponsible. My animals are now at risk of catching whatever this kitten has – all due to an inconsiderate member of this

community.

Bottom line – If you aren't going to spay your cat, then you should be the one paying to care for the sick kittens that result from your negligence. You should not rely on others to take care of this problem for you. This kitten did not ask to come into this world, and it certainly did not deserve to be abandoned, starving and sick.

Please give some thought to pet ownership and spay or neuter your dogs and cats. Animals are not possessions; they are companions that rely on us for love and care.

Kim Sebring
Vernonia

Successful day to Make Vernonia Shine

To the Editor:

Vernonia Pride would like to thank everyone who showed up on clean up day. Though the weather could have been better, about 150 people showed up to Make Vernonia Shine. There were people all over town picking up litter, planting, sweeping, etc., even a group from Starbucks in St. Helens. It is always nice to see new faces.

We would like to thank SOLV and all of the support that they give to this project. Thanks also to all of the food helpers—what is clean up day without good food at the end? Thanks to everyone who donated materials and time. Farmwoman's Nursery donated plants for the theme sign. The city public works and city hall employees always put forth lots of help and equipment towards this effort. Thanks to Providence Health Center for the use of the parking lot for registration. Most of all thanks to all of you Vernonians for caring about your town. We all live here and we can all make it a better place to be.

Since the high school could not participate in April, they made their showing on May 22 as part of their Spring Fling. There were kids all over town, sprucing it up. I would like to personally thank the group at the museum. They were totally awesome. They were very organized and we were very happy with their work. Kudos to you all.

This year there will be real flowers in the hanging baskets purchased by Vernonia Pride and the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce. The baskets were

made locally by Farmwoman's Nursery.

We hope you are all enjoying our new garbage receptacles. These were purchased by Vernonia Pride. Some of the businesses have provided flowers for their garbage receptacles and all of the businesses have agreed to keep them watered for us. A BIG THANK YOU for that time consuming task. The receptacles were made by Alan Hein and the silhouettes by Wolfgang Forge with designs donated by Vernonia Mercantile.

Donna Webb for
Vernonia Pride

Special thanks to all volunteers, donors

To the Editor:

These are difficult times for our county and state. At no time in recent memory have we faced such difficult choices, and experienced such deep cuts in our public schools, in our helping agencies and in the public safety fabric we have all come to count on. Every day hundreds in our midst go hungry and hundreds more worry where their next meal will come from. We all worry whether the schools will operate a full year next year and some fear that a crime wave will sweep through our communities now that some types of crimes can no longer be prosecuted or punished.

In the midst of all the gloom and doom we are facing, I want to take a moment to publicly thank those who continue to volunteer their time and their money to help their communities in these trying times. It is fun to be on boards and in leadership positions when times are good and the money is there to meet most of the needs of the community, and everyone is grateful and happy. It is far more difficult and a lot less fun to volunteer in a leadership role when the hard choices need to be made, when there is not enough money to address even the most basic needs, and when your best efforts are often greeted with unhappiness and even hostility.

Recently, we at Riverside received notification of our annual allocation from the United Way of Columbia County. As you can imagine, it was down significantly from last year, as were the allocations of all of the

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Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



Sign ups for the Summer Reading Program started Tuesday, June 3rd. Summer Programs for school age children are on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. starting June 19th.

The schedule is as follows:

June 19 – Arthur Atsma- magic etc.

June 26 – Leapin' Louie

July 10 – Reptile Man

July 17 – BJ the Clown

July 24 – Celeste Rose Puppets

July 31 – Elizabeth Falcon

On Thursday, August 7th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., come to Camp READ. This is the only program that requires pre-registration due to a limit of 30. It is geared for children grade 3-6.

The library has been anticipating a lot of summer reading by our teens and we have bought many new titles. If you enjoy the television show "Alias" you'll want to read the series of the same name, based on the hit TV series. The library has three of the series – *A Secret Life*, *Recruited* and *Disappeared*. All three are original prequel novels written by Lynn Mason.

If you enjoyed the movie "The Princess Diaries," try reading the book! Usually the books are far superior to the movie (though not always,

just my opinion). We also have three of this series – *The Princess Diaries*, *Princess in the Spotlight*, and *Princess in Love*.

In the non-fiction department, try reading the biography of Tony Hawk called *Hawk: Occupation Skateboarder*. Tony Hawk has skated for over 20 years, invented more than 80 tricks and won twice as many professional contests as any other skater. This book tells the story of the development of the sport of skateboarding, and his own story as well, from being a hyperactive child with a demon temper and a high IQ, to his accidental start into skateboarding and the people he considers legends and his mentors in the sport. Even for a non-skater, like myself, this is an interesting book. But if skating is your passion, you have to check this book out; it has lots of photographs, too. Then check out our subscription to "Thrasher," a skateboard magazine.

Need to do some recycling? Take advantage of Recycle Saturday, sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library on the second Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 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., through July.

Phone: (503) 324-1382

Internet: www.WILnet.wccclib.or.us
to browse library resources or to
reserve materials electronically.