

Letters

Community events create full schedule

To the Editor:

It seems we were just planning these coming events and now they are about to happen.

First: the Spaghetti Dinner at Lew's on Sunday, June 22, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. All you can eat - Adults \$8.00 and children 12 and under \$5.00. Salad, bread and dessert included. This dinner is a benefit for the fireworks. Show your support by attending this fundraiser.

Second: The Open House at the Museum on Sunday, June 29, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. We will have our plaque in place for everyone to see. Our museum, "The Oregon American Mill Office" has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Golden Oldies will be providing music for our enjoyment. We are asking for good weather so we can sit outside and visit (bring a chair) or you can take the time to walk through the museum.

Third: The 4th of July will be here soon. We will be having

our usual parade which will start at 7:30 p.m. from City Hall and Weed Ave. We will march down Bridge Street, exiting at California Ave. by WGS onto the school grounds. The Boosters and Scouts will be selling their usual goodies. Sit and visit with friends and neighbors until it is time for the fireworks. Vernonia Pride will be collecting donations for the fireworks at the close of the display.

Fourth: Please leave all of your own fireworks at home. Someone could get hurt and

bringing them to a public display could result in closing down our show in coming years. Please respect this request. Sit back and have a good time and enjoy the fireworks. Have a happy and safe 4th.

Enid Parrow
President of the Vernonia
Pioneer Museum and a
Member of Vernonia Pride

Another successful Senior Spelling Bee

To the Editor:

The Senior Spelling Bee was held recently, and everyone at the Senior Center seemed to have a great time. It went smoothly due to the help of some senior citizens and some not-yet-seniors. Thank you to our judges, Carol Sawyer and Noni Andersen - both of these ladies have won the local contest in past years; their knowledge of words made it easy. Thanks also to Ralph and Carolyn Keasey and Bob Wagner for their help and support. We appreciate, as usual, the support of the Senior Center, helping us in many ways, as they always do. And a special thanks to Sentry Market for the wonderful fruits, veggies, and drinks.

The Vernonia Spelling Bee is an annual event, open to anyone over 50. It is always a "user-friendly," informal party, and quite competitive. The winners this year: Tobie Finzel, first; Bob Eastman, second; and Ruth Bell, third. Congratulations! Watch for notice of the fourth annual Spelling Bee next spring. I like to say that it is proof that seniors can, and do, stay active. And that "learning never stops!"

Audeen Wagner
Vernonia

Spaying/neutering costs are too high

To the Editor:

In response to Kim Sebring's letter in the June 5 issue of *The Independent*.

You are fortunate that you could handle this kitten, most feral cats will not let you handle them. The problem really lies with the people who have the ability to perform spaying and neutering, but refuse to do so without charging a fee that many people cannot afford. We

heard about the spay and neuter clinic and thought, now that is something that should benefit everyone who cannot afford to have their feral cats spayed or neutered. Think again!!! They charge a fee, too and you are lucky if they even bother to call you when your name is on the list. They did not call us and our name was on the list. The veterinary clinics should have one day a month where they do nothing but spaying and neutering, why haven't they done that? Is it because they can make more money doing what they do now? Some say let the cats starve to death, well that's o.k. if you are that type of person who can just let an animal starve to death.

The Oregon Humane Society will take cats and not put them to sleep. You have to make an appointment and then they ask for a donation of \$39.00 for each cat. You do have to get lucky and catch the cat in a trap the day, or as close to the day, you are taking it in. This is sometimes a challenge. We decided this was a more caring way to handle the cats that we can catch. Those that we can't catch, well, we just can't let them starve.

Diana Russell
Vernonia

Emergency response is remarkably good

To The Editor:

On June 2, 2003 I was involved in a log truck accident that put me on the other side of the fence.

For the past two plus years, I have been a member of the Vernonia Volunteer Fire Department. I joined so that I could help others in our community during their time of need. On this Monday morning I became the one in need of help. As my truck came to a sudden stop and the dust settled, I climbed out of my truck with my scalp laying in my face and bleeding badly, but I had a sense of calm come over me as I realized that my extended family would soon be on scene. What I didn't realize at first was that there was so much blood covering my face that these people that I work with all the time had no idea who I was. It wasn't until I started talking to them that the medics and fire-

Please see page 20

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Two exciting events will be taking place in the library in the month of June. Whitney Otto, author of *How to Make an American Quilt*, will be here Saturday, June 21st at 2:00 p.m. She will be reading from her books and signing any that are purchased that day.

She will also bring the beautiful quilt from the movie of the same name. Saturday, June 28th will be the very first Chautauqua program at the library. Pat Gold will present a program on the history and culture of the Chinookan people. Ms. Gold is an artist whose work (basketry) has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She has won numerous awards and honors and is a highly respected lecturer and artist-in-residence. Ms. Gold resides in Scappoose in our very own Columbia County, and it would be especially gratifying to have a large number in attendance at her presentation. These programs are free to the public and refreshments will be served.

The annual library Summer Reading Program will be starting Tuesday, June 24, at 11 a.m. Science will be the first topic for youngsters who will be Reading, Discovering and Exploring. The only evening presentation this year will be on July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. This will feature Steve Taylor, the magical ventriloquist, with his program on Lewis and Clark. Registration is still open, with forms and schedules available at the library. Youngsters, six and under, will be meeting at the library and those seven and older will meet at Anderson Park. This summer's sponsors include United Grocers (of which Sentry Market is a member) and The Friends of the Vernonia Library. Both Fred Meyer and Wal-Mart have donated gift certificates with which prizes for youngsters meeting reading goals will be purchased.

The Friends of the Library have received notification that the organization can reasonably expect to be a publicly supported organization (exempt from federal income tax). This stage of the process is called "an advanced ruling period." Now, individuals filing income tax forms may officially consider donations given to the group to be tax-exempt. The Friends have worked very hard to complete paperwork associated with this process and would like to publicly thank the law

office of Tim Marble for the beneficial and free advice that helped them finally achieve this status. The group is hoping that their big fund-raiser (book sale) during Jamboree weekend will be a huge success. Donated books may be dropped off at Glen Purvee's building on June 28 and on July 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, both days.

Books for discussion this month are *A Collection of Beauties at the Height of their Popularity* by Whitney Otto, and *Liberty Falling* by Nevada Barr. Next meeting of this group will be Monday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the library. It's very informal and all are invited.

New acquisitions include *Good Morning, Killer* by April Smith, *Naked Prey* by John Sandford, *Dead Ringer* by Lisa Scottoline, *Say When* by Elizabeth Berg and *A Body to Die For* by Kate White.

Also added to the collection in appreciation to Judy Thiringer, who has diligently served eight years on the library board, are *1001 Ingenious Gardening Ideas: New, Fun, and Fabulous tips That Will Change the Way You Garden—Forever!* and *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson. Judy's invaluable advice, wit, and tact as a board member will be greatly missed. She will continue to be an advocate for the library and to regularly catalog library materials. She is one of the three dedicated individuals who started electronically entering items three years ago and has continued on an almost weekly basis since. This has not always been an easy task, as some of Vernonia's holdings are so obscure that they could not be found in any other library's collection for downloading. Finding current call numbers has been such a challenge that Judy recently purchased the latest edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index for the library. This contains call numbers for such strange subjects as yo-yos, wrenches, wheelbarrows, toothpicks, sawmill operations, saxophonists and cucumbers, as well as nearly any new subject one might wish to categorize. This reference book will be an indispensable asset to the library and will be one more way in which Judy will be remembered and appreciated.

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