

**Letters**

From page 3

Columbia County Commissioners said no to the State of Oregon, the State simply put a ban on ANY new permits for construction inside the County borders.

What have we citizens come to in this US of A, when a State government agency will ignore the wishes of its citizens' county government representatives, without formal hearings to resolve the situation. At least our Columbia County Commissioners made themselves available to Clatskanie area citizens, Vernonia area citizens, and to St. Helens area citizens to listen to property owners' concerns. It turns out that our own County agencies, (ie: land use planning) are performing the enforcement of State of Oregon-mandated regulations.

If our County Commissioners are successful in making the new rules and regulations less intrusive on property owners rights, then they and Land Use Planning are to be congratulated. It is up to the rest of use to go after our State Representatives and State Senators to make them more responsive to us, their employers!

Sincerely,  
**Roger Grimsrud**  
Vernonia

**Support for WRC is heartwarming**

To the Editor:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! It has been very heartwarming to receive so much community support for the Columbia County Women's Resource Center over this past year. Since I'm new to the area and just moved to Columbia County in August 2002, I must let you all know that I'm impressed with Columbia County

and the community. The community support for the center and shelter has been tremendous. Each time I turn around, there has been someone at the shelter door wanting to give support. Whether it be a woman with fresh eggs, church groups with gift baskets and/or quilts, Windermere Realty with a whole crew to clean and refurbish the outside grounds to Armstrong World Industries who are sponsoring a community playground build day, the support for the Columbia County Women's Resource Center has been breathtaking and we thank you!

Our Adopt-A-Bed program has been a success. Our community has been responsive in sponsoring shelter beds at the cost of \$25.00 dollars per month. The shelter is a 26 bed facility; we have been fortunate that most of the beds have been sponsored each month since the program started in February 2003. In sponsoring a bed, the donor is ensuring that each woman and/or child has a clean/safe room in an environment that is monitored by crisis staff 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. We will continue the Adopt-A-Bed program over the coming year and our goal is to have all of our beds (26) sponsored each month.

Volunteers at the CCWRC have been an asset to us. They have actively taken on projects such as landscaping, client resource fund, crisis services and donations. Linda Dunn, our Volunteer Coordinator is a volunteer at the center. She joined us in February 2003; Linda came to the center

and asked us what she could do as a volunteer at the Center and we have been honored to have her as our Volunteer Coordinator to help us recruit other volunteers and deliver services to clients. Linda and our other volunteers have joined in the history of Columbia County Women's Resource Center in that CCWRC was established by community volunteers to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence and people facing other crisis in their lives.

And it does not stop there, a local company, Semling Construction, Inc. then came in and donated their services to build a retaining wall, haul fill dirt, level and grade the site. They gave us many man hours to ensure that we were able to have an area where a playground could be built. Mark and Dave, and their crew cleared an area that was overgrown and uneven. Due to Semling Construction's enormous donation and the generosity of the folks at Armstrong World Industries, on July 21, 2003, we will have a new playground. The plant will be working together that day to give our children a safe place to play.

On behalf of the Columbia County Women's Resource Center Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and Clients, we thank you for your support. The women and children in our shelter, The Starting Place, are fortunate to have people like you helping them out during a difficult period in their lives.

Vickie J. Hagan  
Executive Director  
Columbia County

**Women's Resource Center Bricks for Shay Park are still available**

To the Editor:

Vernonia Pride does sell bricks to be engraved and placed at Shay Park all year long. This is just a reminder that if you want a brick engraved this year we need your order by Sept. 1. We will sell during the Old Timers' picnic and will take orders by phone at 503-429-5201. We will continue this endeavor indefinitely, but bricks will be engraved only bricks once a year, in September. They make great gifts. We

do have gift cards that we can send to the person you buy for. We also have gift certificates for the bricks.

Vernonia Pride will be hosting Donkey Basketball again this year just after the high school basketball season. Get ready for loads of fun.

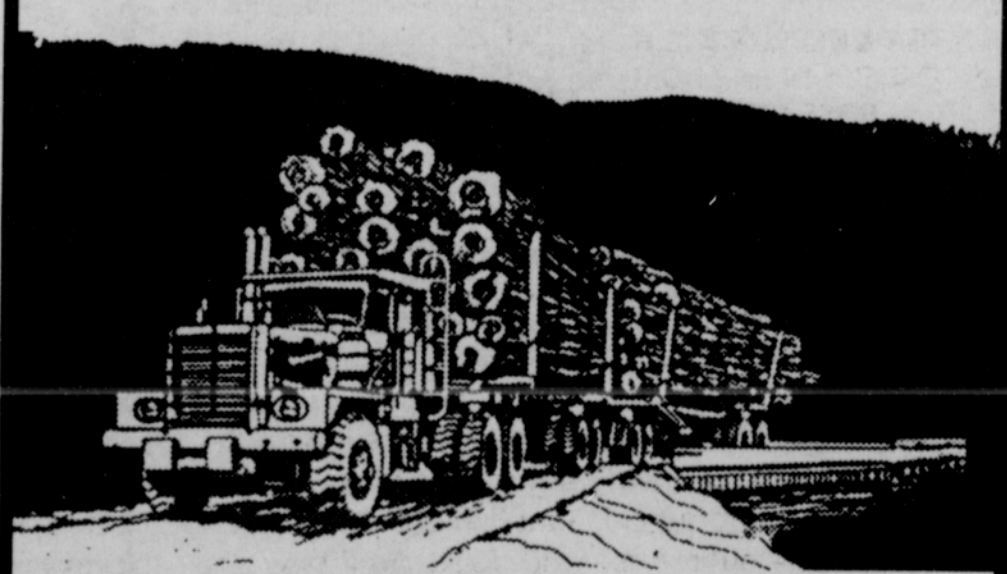
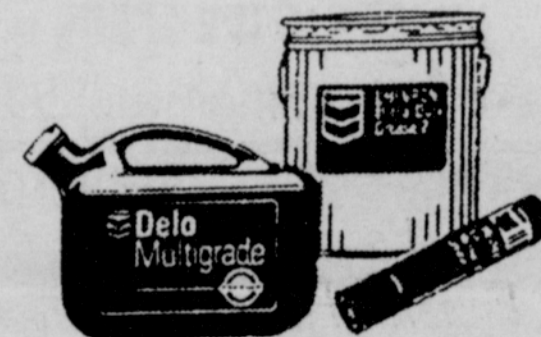
We would like to thank all of the businesses in town who are watering the flowers atop the trash receptacles. This helps us tremendously and benefits the town in that we all enjoy the lovely flowers.

Donna Webb  
Vernonia Pride

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