

## Letters

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efficient and effective 9-1-1 emergency response possible.

We're very proud of the job that the staff does at your 9-1-1 District. They operate very efficiently, with fewer employees than they could have, without sacrificing 9-1-1 call service, dispatch or emergency service coordination.

And they help us keep our promises, like getting the 9-1-1 Call Center built for about 1/3 the cost of other 9-1-1 centers, and qualifying Columbia 9-1-1 for Computer Aided Dispatch and Enhanced 9-1-1 service. Those are complicated to explain, but they result in faster dispatching when you call.

Another important promise we've been able to keep to the

voters is getting a countywide microwave backbone radio system funded and installed – using over \$1.4 million in other funding sources – instead of District tax revenues. That means safer, more reliable radio coverage for every part of the county – doing much more, with less. That new system will be operating in November.

As a result of effective management, the rate requested for the renewal of the District's five-year operating funds is LOWER than it was five years ago. That means that the tax rate to you, the taxpayers, will go down, while our 9-1-1 reliability and service increases.

This is a team effort, and we take our responsibility very seriously – because we know you

count on 9-1-1 as a vital service for your children, grandparents, friends and co-workers. You count on 9-1-1. We all count on 9-1-1.

Likewise, we all count on your vote on November 4th, and your YES vote to renew Columbia 9-1-1 Operating Funds. Over half of all registered voters must cast their vote and a majority of those must approve this renewal for it to pass. Please vote and vote YES.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you through Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District.

**Board of Directors of  
Columbia 9-1-1  
Communications District  
Dee Wooley, Clatskanie**

**Kathy Denckla, Vernonia-Mist  
Connie Budge,  
Rainier-Columbia City  
Rob Anderson, Scappoose  
Henry Heimuller, St. Helens**

### Voting is easy but be sure ballot counts

Some elections you have to think about: some are no-brainers, just do it.

The November election to renew the 9-1-1 levy is one of the latter. Nothing new about this levy, it's just a bit smaller than the expiring one it will replace. Almost everyone who votes will be for this: the problem is getting half the electorate to mail or bring in their ballots. So, with apologies to Nike for swiping their slogan, Just Do It. Vote.

Cordially,  
**Frazier Rohm  
Vernonia**

### We really do call 9-1-1 when seconds count

There is a saying, "When seconds count, call 9-1-1 first." We know it's true, and we do call Columbia 9-1-1, more than 88,000 times a year; more than 200 times a day. 9-1-1 is a vital service we all expect to be there. We just know it will.

So, it's an easy decision when once every five years, we're asked whether we want to keep providing the operating funds to maintain 9-1-1 service for every man, woman and child in Columbia County. Of course we do. Vote yes for Columbia 9-1-1 on the November ballot. And be sure to vote, because while we all need and want 9-1-1 service, we also need a double majority turnout. So please vote, and vote yes on Columbia 9-1-1.

**Randy Parrow  
Vernonia**

### EMT speaks from personal knowledge

While working/volunteering as an EMT in Vernonia for 9 years, I've had the pleasure of working closely with our 9-1-1 dispatchers for Columbia County. These people are always there to help and reassure those in need and, at the same time, dispatch emergency responders with the accurate and timely information we need to assist a caller in their time of need.

However, for them to contin-

ue doing their job quickly and efficiently, they need our help now. The levy that passed 5 years ago needs to be renewed and will not even raise our taxes (the cost will actually be lower).

So expense isn't the issue so much as the need for the percentage of registered voters required to pass a measure. Please, GET OUT AND VOTE.

The services provided by 9-1-1 are something each of us will probably need at some point in our life. Unfortunately, no one knows when an emergency will arise, but the better prepared we are, the greater the chance for a positive outcome. Please join me November 4th in voting "YES" to renew 9-1-1!

**Christine Purvee  
Vernonia**

### 9-1-1 service needed in all emergencies

We all count on government to provide us with essential services. One of the most essential services is Columbia 9-1-1, which coordinates all the police or fire or emergency medical departments in all of our communities when we need them. They do it fast and they do it efficiently.

There is nothing more essential in an emergency than dialing 9-1-1 and knowing a person is there to help right away, within seconds. We count on this essential service every day, just look at the numbers: Columbia 9-1-1 handled over 88,000 calls last year.

If we're using it, and we count on it and it works for us, we need to keep it. We need to renew Columbia 9-1-1 operating funds so we have 9-1-1 service for another 5 years – just like we have for the past 10 years.

I'm voting YES for Columbia 9-1-1 on the November ballot. It's a simple, smart decision we can all make to keep something we need.

**Tom Budge  
Vernonia**

### Vernonia felt like home on first visit

Welcome to Vernonia. Some say that when you die, there are those who greet and guide you on to the 'other side'. The first place I stopped in town was Sentry (well, the

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## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Those of us in the library would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to the Parrow family. Art Parrow was a true "friend of the library." For many years he read and read. On cards that are remaining in some of the older books his name may be found time

after time. Art was a liaison between the library and The Lion's Club, always requesting ideas for projects to benefit the library. One of these projects was the construction of two portable bookshelves, with materials being donated by The Lions and the work being done by Art. Art became a member of the library board in 1993 and served until 1997, when he was appointed Mayor of Vernonia. He was always supportive, while intelligently helping to guide policies and practices. Memorial donations to The Friends of the Library have been made in honor of Art and are being used to purchase a book about raising dahlias, another on beginning woodworking projects, several novels, and a book entitled, *The Wisdom of Grandfathers*.

The recent Chautauqua presentation was well received by those in attendance. Rick Francona's presentation about the Japanese attacks on Oregon's coast prompted the purchase of *Silent Siege—III*, a documentary by Bert Weber, on these attacks during World War II. The book is quite detailed and contains many interesting pictures of Fort Stevens and its personnel at that time and of the bomb carrying balloons. Listed in the book are the 297 sites where parts of these balloons were found, ranging from Oregon to Montana, British Columbia, Alaska, Michigan, South Dakota and Texas. Isn't the technology that the Japanese had during that time just amazing? Also recently added to the library's collection is Mr. Francona's book, *Ally to Adversary, An Eyewitness Account of Iraq's Fall from Grace*.

The last book discussion meeting was the best-attended and liveliest one yet. *To Kill a*

*Mockingbird* proved to be an excellent choice. *Snow Falling on Cedars* is the current selection. Copies of the book are available as well as audio and video editions. Discussion of this novel will take place Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m. in the library.

New acquisitions include *Blacklist* by Sara Paretsky, *Stone Cold* by Robert B. Parker, *Deception Point* by Dan Brown, *Our Lady of the Forest* by David Guterson, *Orchard* by Larry Watson, *Split Second* by David Baldacci, *Blood is the Sky* by Steve Hamilton, *Three Weeks in October* by Charles A. Moose and Charles Fleming, and *The Smoking Gun* by Gerry Spence.

Having recently completed the 2003 Oregon Public Library Statistical Report, I am excited to report that circulation increased from 17,222 last year to 21,732 this year. Since the move to the new building, when yearly circulation was about 10,000, the number of items checked out has considerably more than doubled. The library presented 98 programs for children last year with approximately 1,400 persons in attendance and 14 programs for adults with about 400 people attending. Approximately 13,000 people visited the library last year. Isn't that remarkable? One figure reported for the first time this year is the number of users of electronic resources in the library—mainly Internet. This figure was very conservatively reported at 820, and means that at least 3 people used the Internet each day the library was open last year.

During the hunting/camping vacation of this past week, our family certainly made use of library materials. Errold and I each read several novels while the grandchildren read and re-read spooky stories and spooky jokes. Even while driving we listened to books—books on tape. We survived without television just fine, thanks to books and the library.

**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**