

Letters

Don't limit politics to the richest parties

To the Editor:

There are some people (such as Phil Keisling, former Oregon Secretary of State) who are proposing that we change the way candidates are selected for placement on the general election ballot. These people say that voters are not given a real choice when minor party candidates (which he calls "spoilers") can be placed on the ballot along with candidates from the two major political parties. Their position is that

we should only be able to choose between two Republicans or two Democrats in the general election, in the event that two candidates from the same party obtain the most votes in the primary.

Currently, minor party candidates can have their names placed on the general election ballot just by filing the required application and paying the appropriate fee. Isn't that awful? Such a procedure allows just about anyone to run for an elective office in a partisan election! What would our Founding Fathers think of that? Just think of that, a person's

name can be on the ballot without having the financial backing of the major political parties or well-funded special interest groups!

Should Phil Keisling's proposal become law we would no longer be faced with a ballot made so confusing by the listing of Independents, Libertarians, Greens, Socialists, and other such un-mainstream candidates. We could just pick between the two candidates with the richest political contributors and political action groups. Ah, for the simple life!

Don McDaniel
Astoria

Chief's dedication not all it appeared to be

To the Editor:

Hello Vernonians. Well, our [police] Chief [Mike Cahill] is gone. Our A#1 dedicated leader of our police force, a man who came to us such a short time ago with such great hopes of turning this town around, cleaning it up. Well, the moving vans and the For Sale sign in front of his house tells me that, well, maybe he wasn't so dedicated to our community.

Why would a man come to a small knit community to fill such an important position as the Chief of Police and then just bail out on us. Remember, he wasn't fired, or retired, he left!

We all remember him on the front page of the metro in The Oregonian. What a noble im-

age, him against the rowdy drunk Vernonians. Maybe the wrong people are being arrested in this town.

Warren R. Wright, Jr.
Vernonia

Great fun for young basketball players

To the Editor:

Thank you to Marla Rethwill who helped organize the third and fourth grade boys basketball. Vernonia had two teams that played in the Forest Grove league. The boys played hard and had a good time. Good job, players.

Thanks also to Sven Sandstrom for helping coach and to Vernonia Community Church for letting us use the gym.

Jerry Butcher, Coach
Vernonia

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



In the Fall of 1970, a whale washed up on the beach near Florence. Since it was too badly decomposed to move to higher ground for burial, the decision was made by ODOT to dynamite the whale, with the plan being that seagulls and other

beach scavengers would consume the resulting smaller pieces. Paul Linnman and his friend, Doug Brazil, were sent by KATU television, Channel 2, to report and photograph the event, which resulted in the publication of Linnman's book, *The Exploding Whale and Other Remarkable Stories from the Evening News*. This is a wonderful book, containing so much more than just the fiasco of the exploding whale.

Linnman writes with the humor and compassion that one who has watched him on television would expect. As a feature reporter, Linnman met and reported on many incredible people including Ron Post, the successful Salem businessman, who is responsible for the organization and ongoing efforts of Northwest Medical Teams; Doc Lavender, who having been in a wheelchair since the age of three, successfully competed as a race car driver; and Art Pease, the Special Olympian who ran the Portland Marathon by mistake and went on to compete in 26 more marathons.

Profiles of these and other remarkable people are included in this book as well as his "two-headed dog" spoof and other entertaining stories from the world of television news. A serious attempt is being made to have Paul Linnman come to Vernonia to relate some of these experiences in person. Whether this happens or not, I really encourage you to read this sometimes-serious, sometimes-hilarious, but always compelling book.

April will be another busy month at the library. The third of our yearly allotment of Chautauqua programs will be Tuesday, April 13th, at 4:00 p.m. Noted Native American storyteller Ed Edmo will trace the history of the trade networks of Na-

tive Americans by the use of maps and displays of artifacts including pelts, trade beads and arrowheads. He will enliven his retelling of the old legends that often crossed tribal boundaries to form a shared culture. The public is encouraged to attend this free program sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

The week of April 18-24 is this year's designated National Library Week. Activities will include a treasure/scavenger hunt, coloring contest, and a "guess the number of items" contest. Watch for more information about this fun-filled week.

Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. is the next scheduled meeting for The Friends of the Library. New members are always welcomed. Yearly dues are \$5.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a family. All revenue generated by this organization is used to supplement library programs and materials. For the third year, the Friends' organization is providing a family pass to the Children's Museum for patrons of the library. This pass is available to be checked out by those wishing to enjoy the many activities offered at the museum. Usage of the pass will determine whether it is renewed from year to year, so don't hesitate to take advantage of this opportunity.

Circulation continues to increase, with the number of items checked out in January surpassing any previous month. January's circulation of 2488 items exceeded the previous highest month by 126. This, combined with the use being made of the computers and of youngsters doing homework and attending library programs, continue to make the library a wonderfully busy place. Regular programs for children include Monday morning Preschool Storytime at 10:30, Reading Enrichment at 3:30 on Mondays when school is in session, and the newly formed Chess Club on Friday afternoons at 1:30.

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, 10:30 a.m., when school is in session.
Phone: (503) 429-1818

WHERE TO FIND THEM

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Shooters ask to use local arena

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event at the arena in Anderson Park. The group used the arena for a one day event last October, during the Fall Salmon Festival. Leslie Waber, who presented the request, said the next event is planned for a full weekend, July 9-11. Waber is working with the Vernonia Ridge Riders, who oversee scheduling for the arena.

Council also heard from Schann Nelson, representing a newly formed group that is promoting the Vernonia Country Market. The group's goal is the development of a regularly scheduled outdoor market, with ten dates scheduled from May 1 to October 2.

They are seeking a location that allows for use of city restrooms and, if possible, city garbage service. Council said no to closing Weed Avenue alongside city hall, because of heavy use by trucks going to the Wilcox & Flegel card lock, but suggested using Hawkins Park.

Appointments to the Airport Commission were approved by the council. The appointees are Dana Anderson, Matt Giles, Rick Gwin and Mike Seager. Randy Parrow is the council representative on the commission.