

Letters

Good reasons not to despair about youth

To the Editor:
I just had a custom two-horse barn built on my little farm in Mist. It is attractive with oil stained board-and-batten siding, a cupola, Dutch doors on the stalls, large custom-made rustic hardware, and a flag flying. The only bothersome thing about it is that my daughter has called it a "Barbie Barn" in front of me twice.

If you feel disparaged about the local youths in our community, let me tell you about Jordan Zoeller and his brother, Jason (ages 21 and 19), who built my new barn. They are both graduates of Jewell School. The older brother, the boss, wrote a contract which we signed, all in a good business-like fashion. The amount was in the neighborhood of ten thousand dollars. These fellows did

a fine job, it is my first time while living in this area for ten years, that I hired out major work and ended up completely satisfied. These fellows are meticulous artisans and their barn business is really sizzling, it was the fourth barn they have built. If our community can produce fine enterprising young fellows like those two, we're on a roll.

Thanks for letting me write you about these guys.

**James Woods
Clatskanie**

Please pick up your trash at public pool

To the Editor:
Has anyone visited the swimming pool lately, in the mornings? I have and it is not pretty.

I must assume that people using it in the evenings do not know that there are garbage cans located in the park. I, and I'm sure, the lifeguards and other public

works employees will agree, that spending half an hour picking up litter in the mornings is not fun.

The swimming pool is free. There is not a day use fee, even though the city pays a lifeguard six hours per day every day. Please be considerate and pick up your garbage (including cigarette butts) when you leave.

**Jeff Burch
Vernonia Public Works**

Sen. Dukes thanked for action on roads

To the Editor:
Sincere thanks are extended to Senator Joan Dukes by the farmers and rural residents of Washington County. Senator Dukes makes sure that roads in the rural area get attention in our rapidly urbanizing county. Fortunately, we have elected leaders who "Get it." Rural roads are important to everyone. The entire state benefits from a vibrant farming econo-

my close to dense urban living.

Thank you, Senator Dukes, for listening, understanding, and taking action. Members of the Washington County Road Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee (RROMAC) are most grateful for your commitment to the importance of rural communities to the entire state.

**Mark Bauer
and 11 additional signers
RROMAC**

We should vote only for trusted person

To the Editor:
For the last fifty years I have been paying attention to the candidates that the controlled political parties have been running for office, especially for president. They have without fail ran someone that we didn't want and in opposition they ran someone that we didn't dare have. Some of the time we got the one we didn't dare have!

I also keep hearing that if we don't vote for the one we don't want, the one we don't dare have will get into office. What if everyone who says this would say, "I will only vote for a person that I can trust?"... and will not vote for the lesser of two evils, and would vote for candidates that they know are trustworthy? That candidate would get into office and we could with God's help turn our country back to a nation under God, and the constitution our founding fathers intended.

Respectfully,
**Keith Carpenter
Scappoose**

Thinks Bush right to go to war with Iraq

To the Editor:
"Three Cheers." This letter is written in response to a letter written by Mr. Juneious Harty of Scappoose in the June 17 edition of *The INDEPENDENT*. I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Harty's assessment of our two presidential candidates. I applaud President Bush for his courage and decisiveness in the way he sought to hold the people accountable who were responsible for the terrorist attacks in our nation on Sept. 11, '01. He did not go after them with a motive of revenge or retaliation, but with justice in

mind.
For those of you who are opposed to the war, remember this – War is never pleasant, but is sometimes necessary. How many more of our citizens would have been killed or crippled by repeated terrorist attacks if President bush had not taken the firm stand that he did? Yes, war is costly, but we can ill afford to roll over, go "back to sleep" and ignore the people who attempt to control others through fear and intimidation, as the terrorists have done. The cost of ignoring them and hoping they will just go away will be far greater than we can imagine. There is always a price to pay for freedom, but it is always worth the cost.

So, to Mr. Harty, "Three Cheers" to your comments.
**Robert Huntington
Birkenfeld**

4-H Clubs appreciate support of businesses

To the Editor:
We would like to thank all of the following businesses for supporting our 4-H market projects at the Columbia County Fair. We had four market pens of rabbits and two market goats this year from different Vernonia 4-H clubs that qualified for the auction. Despite the heat wave, many buyers showed up to support the kids. Prices were such that we didn't actually need to use any of the money pledged by Vernonia businesses, but the pledges help us to bid the prices up.

Thank you very much to Willow and Jay of Vernonia Hardware, Gail and Rick Gardner of Gardners Feed, and Ben and Lisa Edgar of Creatures.

Sincerely,
**All Creatures Great & Small
4-H Club, D'Lisa Watts, and
Buxton's Boers & Bunnies
Stacey Hargrove, Kirk Avila**

Village Kids program can use more help

To the Editor:
Dale Scobert (who was interim Police Chief) called me to tell me about a car accident with two children. He was disappointed not to have something, such as a quilt, to give them. He is from Sandy, where Bonnie Gallagher had started
Please see page 20

Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



The Banks Public Library open hours have been reduced by one hour per day. We open at 12 noon instead of 11 a.m. on our regular open days. We will still be open Tuesday - Saturday. We will continue to be closed on Sundays and Mondays. We are sorry for any inconvenience

this might provide.

The final Summer Reading Program is today, August 5th, but kids started turning in their completed reading records as of August 1st. The award for completing your reading goal is a free book. Verizon, State Farm and Wells Fargo sponsor the purchase of the reward books.

Preschool Story time will discontinue in August. But look for it again the first week of school.

For adult readers, I'd like to suggest an author I have recently discovered. Tracy Chevalier writes historical novels that are fascinating stories. I'm reading "The Virgin Blue," Chevalier's first novel. This novel goes back and forth between 16th Century France and modern France. The characters in the 16th Century, it turns out, are relatives of Ella Turner, a modern American midwife who is living in a small town in France because of her husband's work. Ella is not very happy in France – people treat her coldly, and she is self-conscious about her French. She has a recurring dream about the color blue, a vivid blue found in some paintings from the 16th Century. Ella starts researching her family history in France and meets Jean Paul, a Frenchman who works at the local library. As the book goes back to the 16th Century, we learn that the character

of Isabelle du Moulin is one of Ella's relatives. Part historical novel, part mystery, you won't be able to put it down.

I have also read "The Girl With A Pearl Earring" by Chevalier. This book takes place in the town of Delft in the 17th Century. Chevalier has created a story about the unknown subject of one of Vermeer's paintings. Griet, an illiterate young maid, is sent by her poor Protestant parents to be a servant in the house of Vermeer (a Catholic). In her new world, Griet is not treated well. The work is demanding, the six children are ungrateful, the other servant feels resentful and Vermeer's wife is bitter at being neglected by her husband. Vermeer takes an interest in Griet, and teaches her how to mix his colors. The sudden attention causes a lot of backlash for Griet, but she is excited by what she is learning, though wary about the attention she is receiving from Vermeer. Ultimately, no good can come from this relationship. When Vermeer decides to paint Griet, she knows what has been gossiped about the last maid he painted – how she bore his child. The descriptions are vivid and the details bring 17th Century Delft to life. The lack of choices in Griet's life is astonishing.

Two other books by Tracy Chevalier that I have not read yet are "Falling Angels," and "The Lady and the Unicorn."

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12 - 7 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 12 - 5 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., through July.
Phone: (503) 324-1382
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to browse library resources or to reserve materials electronically.