

**Letters**

**From page 17**  
 mies rumbling because they didn't get to eat, tears because the adult at home yelled at them, yawns because no one got them to bed at a decent hour, or domestic violence kept them up all night. No one at home cared enough to spend a few extra minutes to be sure their child had a good start to the day. When a driver has to wait while a child scrambles to find homework, has to tie their shoes when they get on the bus or help them with their jackets, it holds up everyone ...including you, the impatient driver stuck behind the bus.

Older children also need to have a decent breakfast, and have their backpacks and lunch pails ready a few minutes prior to the bus arriving. Just as with adults, when a child starts off the day hungry, or wolfs down an inadequate breakfast and rushes madly out the door, there is a stress load already weighing them down.

Drivers, leave adequate room between you and the back of the school bus! DON'T TAILGATE THE BUS! Just like trucks, if you can't see us in your side mirror, we can't see you. Buses have rear view mirrors, but drivers depend on side mirrors since back and side windows often fog up. Climbing on our rear ends isn't going to make us speed up. In fact, it will cause us to SLOW DOWN. Why? This little item is in the drivers manual for a reason. If you are so close that you would hit us if we had to stop suddenly, we'll make sure you are going at an even slower speed. Then if you rear-end the bus, the impact will be less.

School buses follow the same routes, on the same days, at the same times, give or take a few minutes. If you always end up behind a bus, leave earlier, or leave later. It's not the bus's fault you get stuck behind it every day. And please DO NOT even consider speeding around that bus just to save you 2 or 3 minutes. Is your agenda more important than the safety of a child? Worth the risk of injuring or killing a child? Or a head-on collision with someone in the other lane? No one else will think so, especially the family of the child you might kill.

The next time you are stuck

behind a school bus, instead of fretting and fuming, give thanks that, although our schools are overcrowded and underfunded, we have schools. We are blessed to live in a country which not only has schools, but also has a system that allows ALL children to attend school, city or rural, even providing transportation. So give the the kids a break, give the bus drivers a break. Change your attitude, back off a few yards, watch out for them and help keep them safe.

Thank you,  
**Cat Ross**  
**Former school bus driver,**  
**current sub bus driver,**  
**Vernonia School District**

**Seven reasons for supporting Ekstrom**

To the Editor:  
 It was, indeed a pleasure, to see in the paper that Bob Ekstrom was running for the office of county commissioner. I have known Bob and his lovely wife Vicki for many years.

First, I would say this for Bob and Vicki, they have raised a fine outstanding family, one to be proud of.

Second, Bob is a successful businessman. This takes brains, our county surely needs some.

Thirdly, Bob is an honest man, these are hard to come by in these days, believe me.

Fourth, Bob is a man of high moral convictions, one who practices what he preaches.

Fifth, Bob is a humble man who thinks and prays upon each serious issue that comes before him.

Sixth, Bob is a man of integrity, he stands for right regardless of the cost.

Seventh, Bob is a man of high moral values, who stands for what is right and the constitution as it was written by our founding fathers.

In other words, my friends, we could never find a better man than Bob Ekstrom for county commissioner, or President of the United States of America for that matter. Let one and all who stands for decency get behind this outstanding man.

Thank you,  
**Juneious F. Harty**  
**Scappoose**

**Obituary**

**BEECHER F. MASON**  
 Beecher F. Mason, 79, Portland, died September 8, 2004. A funeral was held September 13 in Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home.

Mr. Mason was born June 10, 1925, in Madisonville, Tennessee. He moved to Timber in 1950 and to Portland in 1959.

In 1948, he married Villa Wear. He was a bus driver for Greyhound.

Survivors include his wife, two sons, Roger and Stan; three daughters, Sharon Johnson, Darlene Mihaljcic and Rhonda Criado; 15 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

**MAY KATE NIKOLAUS**

May Kate Nikolaus, 81, Hillsboro, died September 4, 2004. A funeral service was held September 10 at the First Christian Church in Forest Grove, with Rev. Spencer King officiating. Private burial took place in Union Point Cemetery in Banks.

Mrs. Nikolaus was born October 27, 1922, in Ghost Pine Creek, Alberta, Canada, to James and Maude James Quance. She was raised in Canada.

In 1949, she married Gordon Nikolaus. They made their home in several communities in Canada and the United States, including Banks and Hillsboro.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Fredrick.

Survivors include her husband; one son, James of Banks; one daughter, Karen Schmidlin of Banks; one brother, Charles of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; two sisters, Minnie Dean of Missoula, Montana, and Clarice Christie of Three Hills, Alberta, Canada; four grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to the American Heart Association, 1425 NE Irving, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97232-4201.

Duyck and VanDeHey Funeral Home of Forest Grove was in charge of arrangements.

**LARA DENIKE PEDDICORD**

Lara Denike Peddicord, 29, Knoxville, Tennessee, died July 23, 2004. A celebration of life was held September 11 at The Grand Lodge in Forest Grove.

Mrs. Peddicord was born October 22, 1974, in Portland, to Peter T. and Frances E. Denike. She was raised in

Manning and graduated from Banks High School in 1992. She earned a B.A. degree in Spanish in 2003 at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

In 2004, she married Brian Peddicord. They made their home in Knoxville. She had worked as a teacher's assistant for Washington Count Head Start and in the Banks School District.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Survivors include her husband; her mother; and a brother, David T. Denike of Grants Pass.

Remembrances are suggested to the American Cancer Society, 0330 SW Curry St., Portland, OR 97201.

**HELEN L. PEMBLE**

Helen L. Pemble, 77, formerly of Vernonia, died September 11, 2004. A memorial service will be held September 18 at 11:00 a.m. in Portland Memorial Funeral Home.

Mrs. Pemble was born May 4, 1927, in Vernonia. Her maiden name was Fowler. She graduated from Vernonia High School.

In 1946, she married Weston Pemble. She was a plant scheduler for Tektronix for 18 years.

Survivors include her husband; a son, R. Scott; a daughter, Candice Pemble-Belkin; three grandchildren.

Remembrances are suggested to Washington County Hospice.

**MAX EDGAR SNIDER, JR.**

Max Edgar Snider, Jr., 76, Portland, died September 1, 2004. A service was held September 8 at Willamette National Cemetery.

Mr. Snider was born May 12, 1928, in Vernonia and was raised in Portland. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Adak, Alaska during World War II.

In 1948, he married Helen B. Fulgham. He was a truck driver for Zellerbach Paper for 39 years.

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2308 Pacific Av. Frst Grv....357-2161  
 741 Madison Av. Vern.....429-6611  
 E-mail: Fuitenrosehoyt@aol.com

Survivors include his wife; one daughter, Linda Ferguson; a sister, Faye; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Remembrances are suggested to the House of Dreams cat shelter in Portland.

Crown was in charge of arrangements.

**SIDNEY E. WITBECK**

Sidney E. Witbeck, 80, Cornelius, died August 31, 2004. Private cremation has taken place.

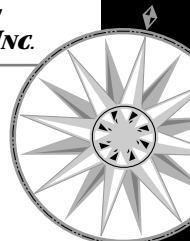
Mr. Witbeck was born October 6, 1923, in Severance, Colorado. He was raised in Colorado and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

He moved to Cornelius in 1948 and worked as a PGE lineman. From the early 1950s until 1971, he owned and operated the Laurel Acres Store and Service Station in Hillsboro. In 1988, he married Alice White.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Nettie "Cec" Witbeck.

Survivors include his wife; three step-daughters, Kathy Wolfe of Vernonia, Adriene Gardner of Portland, and Belinda Spegel of Nehalem; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

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