

Letters

Support for Vernonia Cares described as "Overwhelming"

To the Editor:

Overwhelming! That's the measure of support Vernonia Cares Food Bank received, especially over the holidays. Cares received donations of canned food, turkey and hams, saver shields; purchase of fresh vegetables for the holiday boxes; direct monetary donations from private citizens, groups and businesses; food drives like Hoops for the Holidays, Scouting for Food Campaign, Mike's Tree Farm, and the VHS Junior Class food drive. All these designated contributions allowed Cares to give 113 holiday grocery boxes, complete with a turkey. Thank you, one and all, who made this happen!

You've brightened many people's holidays and also shown, once again, how great

your support is to Vernonia Cares Food Bank. We continue to be your hands extended to the hungry in and around Vernonia.

To date, over fifty responses to our December bulk mailing project (a new effort for Cares) has been very encouraging. (Responses can still be mailed to us). Cares received many generous end-of-the-year contributions, too, which are stabilizing our financial situation for 2005.

We're working hard on behalf of our clients to plan for the future. Thanks for making that future much brighter!

**Sandy Welch,
Executive Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank**

Know which United Way you're helping

To the Editor:

It's not the same United Way.

Like the residents of Cowlitz

and Wahkiakum Counties, many of you have reported receiving solicitation letters from United Way of the Columbia-Willamette in Portland. I want to make sure that everyone understands that the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and the Columbia County United Way are different organizations. United Way of Columbia County raises funds in Columbia County for Columbia County. United Way of the Columbia-Willamette raises funds for the Portland area only.

We have received inquiries from several of you asking if we have changed our name and why is the return address in Portland? We have not changed our name and our return address is still in Rainier. If you send a donation to Columbia-Willamette your money will go to Portland and stay in the Portland area. Columbia-Willamette did a bulk mailing and did not remove the zip codes for our area from this

mailing.

Columbia County United Way has contacted Columbia-Willamette to ensure this does not happen again. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused our donors.

Please remember, if you wish to support your local United Way of Columbia County, you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 538, Rainier, OR 97048, or call 503-556-3614.

**Kathye Beck,
Executive Director
Columbia County
United Way**

You made "Holiday Bucks" successful

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce I would like to give a great big THANK YOU to the local participating merchants and shoppers of Vernonia for making the "Holiday Bucks" promotion a HUGE success. Not only did the participating merchants benefit from this program, but the shoppers did, too.

2,517 entries were turned in, which means that \$125,850 was spent in Vernonia in a little over 3 weeks. This went way beyond ANYONE'S wildest dreams!! (That's without considering how many cards didn't get filled out and turned in!)

The winners of the \$25 certificates were Kim Tierney, Marie Krahn and Sue Wren. Winners for the final drawing on December 23 were; Joe Kim - \$50 certificate, Pam Smith - \$75 certificate and Margaret Brown - \$100 certificate. Congratulations to all!!

We will be running this program again next year so look for it to be announced early in November 2005.

Again, Thanks To All for participating in this GREAT program!!!

Sincerely,
**Janie Wasmann
Holiday Bucks Promotion
Vernonia Area
Chamber of Commerce**

Vernonia Chamber is eager to act in 2005

To the Editor:

The chamber board for 2005 is very excited and energetic

with lots of ideas for the coming year. A web site is nearing completion and is just about ready to go live. Watch for it at www.vernoniachamber.com.

Our meetings for the year will alternate between breakfast, lunch and dinner. The first meeting for this year will be January 12 at 7:00 a.m. at the Buckhorn Restaurant. Noni Andersen will present information about the new Visitors' Guide for Vernonia. This is a perfect meeting for business owners to find out how your business can be in this guide.

On January 20, the chamber is sponsoring a class on financial planning for businesses. The instructor will be a representative from the Portland SCORE office. If you have a business and need this service, or if you are thinking about opening a business, don't miss this opportunity. The chamber is offering this class free to anyone in Vernonia. Call the number below if you are interested. The class will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Scout Cabin.

Remember, you do not have to be a chamber member to come to a meeting. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the chamber, please call me at 503-429-5201 or send a request to Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 7, Vernonia, OR 97064.

**Donna Webb, President
Vernonia Area
Chamber of Commerce**

Successful Donut Day helps food bank

To the Editor:

On December 18, the second annual Donut Day event was held at the St. Helens Police Department. Donut Day is an event to benefit the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. Volunteers at the Police Department traded Krispy Kreme donuts for perishable and non-perishable food items or sold donuts for cash.

Donut Day was once again very successful, with cash donations totaling almost \$1,650 and total food donations weighing in at 2,575 pounds. All proceeds of the event go to benefit the Columbia Pacific Food Bank to assist them in combat-

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Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



The Banks Public Library has an extensive collection of magazines available to be checked out. I've said this before, but it is worth repeating because we have a plethora of new titles.

In the activities or sports department, we now have a subscription to *Sports Illustrated*. Our newest titles include *Skiing*, *Ski*, *Western Horseman*, *Golf Digest*, *Golf For Women*, *Bicycling*, *Field and Stream*, *Salmon Trout & Steelhead* and *Outdoor Life*.

Other new periodical subscriptions include *Portland Monthly*, *American Patchwork Quilting*, *Working Mother* and *Quilter's Newsletter*. For the kids we now have *Nickelodeon*, which is very popular. In addition, we have *Dirt Bike*, *Dirt Rider*, *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Thrasher*, *YM and Teen People*. The Banks Public Library is one of the few Washington County Libraries that allows checkout of the current issue. Our magazines are available for one week checkout.

Now that the holidays have passed, many people will be beginning to do their "spring" cleaning. We welcome the materials donations that result. We do have a list of "donation guidelines" that are helpful when you are loading up boxes of books and magazines for donation. Here are the highlights:

If you have a large quantity of items to donate (boxes), please contact the library in advance to schedule an appointment when staff has the time to thoroughly go through them.

BOOKS: In general, books need to be in good condition. If they are best sellers, they should be fairly recent.

- No Reader's Digest Condensed Books
- No text books
- No encyclopedias
- No yellowed paperbacks

MAGAZINES: The Friends are pleased to sell back issues of your subscriptions.

- Only most recent 2-3 months of a magazine
- No pamphlets
- No Reader's Digest Magazines

We do accept some donations of current subscriptions to be put in our collection; please see library staff about this.

VIDEOS & CDs: We do accept video and DVD donations gladly. Please make sure they are in working order. We do not accept music donations at this time to add to our collection, but will sell them for the Friends benefit.

Unfortunately, the library does not have the storage space or the staff time to accept all the donations we are offered. We try to do our best to accommodate most donations. Thanks for all your gifts!

Remember, NW Fibers in Hillsboro accepts hardback books for recycling.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12 - 7:00 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 12 - 5 p.m.

Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Phone: (503) 324-1382

Internet: www.WILInet.wccis.lib.or.us to browse library resources or to reserve materials electronically.