

**Letters**

**Real "WMDs" could pay for worthy causes**

To the Editor:

It seems to me that "W" has an opportunity with the January 20th inauguration to find some real WMD. Recent news reports peg the projected cost of the upcoming political gala at a whopping \$50 million. I can't help think how that amount of money might help our soldiers with body armor, rehabilitation, or even travel between extended tours of duty. Or, what an additional \$50 million could do to help with the current disaster in South Asia and/or provide food, education, and medicine for the billions of needy citizens of planet earth. Not to mention debt service on our ballooning deficit.

While "W" and company won a seemingly convincing victory on November 2nd in certain parts of our country and I don't begrudge them an opportunity to celebrate, for about 50K they could rent the Washington Convention Center and charge gala attendees to pay the food, beverage, and entertainment bill. Such a gesture of heart would save about 49.95 million for worthy causes; suggesting to the nation and the world that "W's" WORDS really do MEAN DEEDS!

**Joel Haugen Scappoose**

**Dukes' appointment called a conspiracy**

To the Editor:

It seems that we have a situ-

ation where our Governor, after talking about appointing our Senator Duke to a commission, waited until after the election to make the appointment. This leaves her position open. My understanding is that Betsy Johnson is to be just bumped up to take her place (which was known to these people before the election) as state senator.

This of course eliminates the chance in both cases for the people to elect the person of their choice to represent them, as the county commissioners appoint the replacement.

This being the case there was only one candidate in the election who was viable and honest about their campaign and that was "Ron Ross."

Folks this smells like a fish that has been dead for three days in 90 degree weather.

**Keith Carpenter Scappoose**

*Ed. note: The Boards of Commissioners in four counties - Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook & Washington - will select the replacement for Sen. Dukes. If they choose Rep. Johnson, her replacement will be selected by the Boards of Commissioners in Clatsop and Columbia Counties. State law requires the appointee to be from the same political party as the office holder being replaced.*

**Thanks to many for helping local families**

To the Editor:

This year, with the generous donations from community businesses, community partners and families, we were able to brighten the holidays for over 230 people. This means that 68 families throughout the county were adopted. These families received gifts of food, clothing, winter coats, toys, and Christmas trees for their families.

Columbia County Womens Resource Center and our clients would like to thank Columbia Tech Center, Burgerville, Scappoose McDonalds, Salon Halloo, St. Helens Washington Mutual Bank, Liefeld Jewelry, Columbia County Commissioners, Armstrong, Key Title, James Oliver, Roxanne Straus, Jessica Lauder, Laura Williams (Bunco Group), John L. Scott Realtors, Scappoose Four Square Church, Dr. Dan Gordon's Dental Office, Irene and Bill Jauron, Robin Simpson, The S.H.A.P.E. group from Lewis & Clark and McBride Schools, Windermere Realty Group, Clatskanie Bunco group, Kiwanis Daybreakers, Sunset Park Church, Linda Kielblock, Rainier 4-H Group (Top Dogz), Vernonia Medical Group, Avamere, St. Helens Dental, Petersen School, Curves, Warren Grange group, and a very special thanks to Kate Murphy and Scappoose Girl Scout Troop #1071 for participating in our annual holiday project.

Without your help many families would not have been able to provide a Christmas for their children.

**Ollie Gibson-Lavell  
Adopt-A-Family Coordinator  
Columbia County  
Women's Resource Center**

**No more recycling of community's junk**

To the Editor:

To the People of Vernonia: I am tired physically and emotionally. It is looking like we will no longer be able to recycle your junk; there are a few people who have the idea that we are more of a problem than they want to live with. We quit for a few years as we had been served with papers by the City of Vernonia as to our property being a nuisance and a dangerous liability. We have cleaned up our property more than once and told people that if our trailer was there they could drop off appliances or metal into the trailer. I do not know how many times we have come home and found appliances (washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, beds, freezers, misc. metals) garbage and loose metal in and on our property and on the shoulder of the road. We did one more clean up and had been told 2 years ago that if it was in the trailer and off the land we could store it until we had a load in the trailers. My husband Allen finally has 2 large trailers and we were trying to do this, we have been informed that it is a safety hazard and that if someone's child got hurt while playing in, under whatever we would be liable and so we cannot do it. I asked about a tarp over the load and will find out whether that is feasible. We do not live in Portland or some big metropolis but we have people who feel that Vernonia should be aping the swankier areas of Portland. The irony is if we lived in Portland, Hillsboro, Forest Grove or any other place we could do what we have been doing. We have been cleaning up Vernonia and felt we were doing a needed work. We cannot get a business license as we are not zoned for this and none is available. Many people have expressed thanks for what we have done. The City of Vernonia has tried to work with us but when the charge has been laid at their door that they are not upholding the law their hands are tied and so are ours.

There are houses in Vernonia and other places that are known as drug houses, and  
**Please see page 15**

**Between the Bookends**

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Another new year brings new books to read, new audio books to hear, and new library projects to anticipate. New books include thrillers by John Grisham (The Broker), Patricia MacDonald (The Girl Next Door), Linda Fairstein (Entombed), Tony Hillerman (Skeleton Man) and Lisa Gardner (Alone). *Unexpected Blessings* by Barbara Taylor Bradford and *Aloft* by Chang-Rae-Lee are novels of troubled family relationships and resolutions to these problems. Lilian Jackson Braun once again delights her faithful readers with her new offering, *The Cat Who Went Bananas*. New audio books on cassette or CD include *Twisted*, by Jonathan Kellerman, *Hour Game* by David Baldacci, *Deep South* by Nevada Barr, and *The Motive* by John Lescroart. Some of these were adopted (purchased and given to the library) through the annual event during which patrons are offered the chance to give to the library at Christmas. Gratitude is expressed to all who adopted books this year.

Upcoming events include a Chautauqua program entitled, "Demystifying Intelligence" and a musical presentation by Mark and Helena Greathouse. The library board is working on revising Internet policies and guidelines and is closely examining a study that has been done regarding the feasibility of a 2-county library district involving Clatsop and Columbia Counties. For youngsters, a container filled with Valentine's Day items will be available for a "guess the number and win the items" contest. The next display table will also feature Valentine's Day items.

Not all activities are new, but, with the New Year, a reminder might encourage some more participants. The pre-school story time is always

on Monday mornings at 10:30 and the Reading Enrichment Program is on Monday afternoons at 3:30 on days when school is in session. Chess club meets on Friday afternoons right after school (also on days when school is in session). The pass to the Children's Museum is available for families to use, courtesy of The Friends of the Library. The book discussion group continues to meet once a month with the next meeting to be held February 14th at 5:30. The book being read this month is *Ricochet River* by Robin Cody. The next Bedtime/Storytime will be Thursday, January 27th at 7:00 p.m. The date for this activity continues to be irregular as an attempt is being made to hold it on nights when there is no school the next day. All of these activities are free and all community members are invited to attend any or all in which they might have an interest.

Also, of course, not all of the books are new, but there is such a wonderful selection now, with over 18,000 volumes, that I'm sure everyone will be able to find something of interest. Maybe you, like I, have picked up a book and looked at its title or cover and decided it's not something that catches your interest. I have been finding that with the book discussion group recommendations, I have read a number of books that once were passed over as not being of interest at the time and I'm sure there are many more on the shelves that I would enjoy. Be sure to look at the Patron Recommendation and Staff Recommendation displays on your next visit. Many times, the best recommendation you can have is from someone in the community who has already discovered a "hidden treasure" of a book.

**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