

Letters

Vernonia is example of community support

To the Editor:

There are times in our lives where we find ourselves in a situation that requires us to let go and have to rely on others. Saturday, January 22nd, this year was one of those times.

I was weighing cars in for the annual Pack 201 Pinewood Derby for Cub Scouts when I received a phone call from my brother. My Father had a heart attack and they were taking him to the hospital. I don't think that it sunk in at first because I thanked my brother for calling and hung up. I got up from the table and walked around for a minute or two and then my brother called back. I realized I had hung up on him, he thought I was in bad cell phone coverage.

I immediately looked around the room and realized that there were several parents who would step in and continue where I left off. This is one of the great things about living in a small community. I am happy to

say that they gladly stepped in and took things over and ran with it. They wished me well and told me not to worry they had it under control.

I want to say to those parents, thank you for all your support. I enjoy being Cubmaster and working with your children and seeing them learn and grow. I have discovered that this is one way that I can give back to the Community and it is very rewarding. I appreciate your involvement in our Pack and your willingness to grow with your children. I understand that it takes commitment but it is so very much worth it to see families working and learning together.

Jon Steward
Cubmaster Pack 201
Vernonia

Democrats haven't served county well

To the Editor:

The citizens of Columbia County deserve better than what the Governor and his liberal cronies have to offer. Co-

lumbia County has been represented in the legislature, both the Senate and the House, by the Governor's own party for the last 30 plus years. In this same period of time, his party has controlled the Governor's office also. With Columbia County consistently supporting the Democrats, and the Democrats being in near total control of the state government in this time period, then Columbia County should have been in such good favor with state government that we should be the gem of Oregon. We have excellent access to air, highway, rail and water transportation, and with a little help from this Democrat influence, we should have the best economy in the state!

It is very plain to see that the conservative Democrats in Columbia County are not "good enough" for the liberals who control the Democrat party. In this same time frame, elements in the Democrat party have systematically destroyed the economy of Columbia County. The "environmentalists" in the

party have effectively closed down the forest industry and were behind the shut down of the Trojan Generating Facility. A county which at one time had high paying jobs and low unemployment now ranks second in the state of Oregon with the highest unemployment and has very few high paying jobs! It is no wonder these liberals want to raise the state minimum wage, it is the only wage they have to offer to Columbia County!

Now the Governor and his liberal friends are playing a game of musical chairs and are creating vacancies in our local legislative seats to appoint the "good ole boys" to. It was not good enough that the people voted three months ago; now he and his gang want to add to their power through a series of backroom deals and political pay offs which very likely were being planned before the November elections! It reminds us of the old adage, "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely!"

It does not look good for Columbia County. The Democrat and Republican conservatives in this county combined in true "bi-partisanship" to overwhelmingly defeat the Governor's attempt to increase taxes one year ago. Then in November we joined together again to protect our property rights and passed Measure 37. We wanted to keep the institution of marriage sacred as God intended it to be and passed Measure 36. We voted down

Measure 34 when the liberals made another power grab for our forests. On all four of these issues, the liberal "machine" opposed us here in Columbia County. What will be our reward? What further damage can the liberals do in Columbia County?

The citizens of Columbia County need to stand together. We need to present a solid front to these Portland controlled liberals and take back control of our county. Our Representative and Senator to the legislature, both of whom were appointed in "backroom deals," need to be held accountable. We have the people, and we have the resources to bring back high paying jobs and economic development to Columbia County. Let's roll!

Fred Yauney
Scappoose

VHS Junior Class to hold pop can drive

To the Editor:

We are asking the community to please support the Junior Class by donating your pop-cans on the dates listed below:

February 12th
March 12th
April 9th

We will be going door to door, and you can also drop your pop-cans off at VHS

All proceeds go to Vernonia High School PROM

Jessie Gehrke
Student
Vernonia High School

Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



The theme for February's Preschool Storytime is as follows:

Feb 2: Dinosaurs
Feb 9: Love Bugs
Feb 16: Best Friends
Feb 24: Jungle Bungle

The Friends of the Banks Public Library will be holding their annual

meeting on Saturday, February 12th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. If you are currently an inactive member, or are not a member but are curious about what the Friends do, this is the meeting to try. They will elect a new board of directors, and discuss the schedule of meetings for the upcoming year. As always, this is a friendly group dedicated to raising awareness of and money for the Banks Public Library.

February brings a whole new selection of best sellers to the library. If you like stories about the West you might enjoy Annie Proulx's newest series of short stories: "Bad Dirt: Wyoming Stories 2." The set of stories preceding this one was "Close Range: Wyoming Stories 1." Annie Proulx won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for her novel "The Shipping News."

Other new books that should be hitting the shelves in February are: "Cat's Eyewitness," another Sneaky Pie Brown mystery (with help from Rita Mae Brown). Richard North Patterson's new novel "Conviction" takes on the death penalty.

Russell Banks' newest, "Darling" is about a character named Hannah Musgrave in the 1960's. Hannah, the daughter of a prominent left-wing pediatrician, joins the Weather Underground and ends up on a FBI watch list.

"Gilead," Marilynne Robinson's second novel, tells the story of one Reverend John Ames' own family history. He recalls his father and grandfather - both were preachers, but one was a gun-toting abolitionist, the other a pacifist. Berry Wendell's novel, "Hannah Coulter," is a continuation of the story about the citizens of Port William. The story is told through the memories of Hannah, now in her 70's. She re-tells the losses suffered in the town during World War II and the devastating effect it had on the community.

Quickly, other new books that will be in the library on the shelves in February: a new-to-us scrapbooking mystery series by Laura Childs (writer of the "tea mysteries"). "Survivor in Death" by J.D. Robb (pseudonym for Nora Roberts). "All the Flowers are Dying" is the newest mystery from Lawrence Sanders - this one is set in New York City.

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.WILLnet.wccs.lib.or.us to
browse library resources or to reserve
materials electronically.

Witt: Union rep and labor lobbyist

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resources—continues to serve our social, environmental and economic needs for generations to come," Witt said.

"We are delighted and proud to have Brad Witt as a colleague," House Democratic Whip Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland) told her caucus. "He brings great ability and experience to the job, and I know he will be an outstanding legislator for the people of House District 31."

Witt, a veteran of many state boards and commissions, has been a union representative for workers in the forest products, seafood and grocery industries, and has served 13 years

as Secretary-Treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO, an elected position.

He has 24 years experience as a lobbyist for the labor movement and has worked on such key issues as economic and workforce development, natural resources and workers' compensation.

A Barre, Massachusetts, native, Witt is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. He earned his master's degree from the University of Oregon, specializing in management, economics and sociology. He and his wife, Donna, have lived in Clatskanie for 15 years. They have two teenaged children.