

Letters, cont.

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wealth? The answer is "NO".

Then why is there war? Immoral profits! Illegal profits! Are all profits bad? No. Making a buck is part of life. It is how we care for ourselves and others. We all work and save. But when making a buck turns into "greed," then it becomes immoral and, more-often than not, illegal. At that point, Social Consciousness is the way to bring back sanity. So let us become socially conscious and stop this insane war of occupation to make the middle east safe for oil and construction companies like Haliburton. Let us stop this orgy of munitions and armament makers who are not in the loop just for defense or our safety. Let us stop this war that destroys the lives, bodies and dreams of our loved ones, the loved ones of others around the world and ourselves. Let us instead enrich our lives and those of others with good health, education, infrastructure and sharing. Let

us, at this bridge of peace, tonight, swear an oath of peace, of social participation and reach into the halls of our Government. Let us eliminate war as an instrument of political aggrandizement and profiteering. Let them hear, loud and clear: "Stop this War! Do not needlessly maim and kill! Not in our name!" And let us leave them with one, very important message: "Bring our Children Home!"

**Jack Phillips
Vernonia**

Thanks for local help on drug/alcohol abuse

To the Editor:

The Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (LADPC) would like to thank those who support alcohol and drug abuse prevention in Vernonia. Alcohol and drug abuse is still the most serious and pervasive problem affecting Columbia County youth and adults. The Department of Human Services, Child

Welfare, states that the county's significant increase in child abuse is due primarily to methamphetamine use.

We would also like to thank law enforcement agencies, county organizations and those who are forming action committees to combat these problems. It is important that we educate ourselves about what is facing our children, adults and families in our communities.

Only by working hard together as a team can we strengthen and sustain healthy children, families and communities.

Sincerely,

**Mark Lesowske
Dick Jacobus
Co-chairs, LADPC**

Rumbolz Memorial Scholarship started

To the Editor:

I would like to make everyone aware of a scholarship that will be given for the first time this year. It is the Zack Rumbolz Memorial Scholarship, and this year will be awarded to a member of what would have been his graduating class. We also plan to continue with the scholarship after this year.

We decided on the following criteria/characteristics for the scholarship recipient:

- Treats others with kindness and patience, even in situations that would make it easy to do otherwise.
- Gives of themselves without seeking recognition or personal gain.
- Accepts and values those

around them, no matter who it is or what their weaknesses are.

- Reaches out to those who feel alone.

Students of Vernonia High School, the staff of Vernonia School District, and community members may nominate seniors. [Nomination forms] may be picked up at Vernonia High School, District Office, or in Video at Vernonia Sentry Market. The person recommending the senior must write a few lines as to why they feel this person deserves this kind of recognition (an example of the student's kindness, character, willingness to give of oneself, respect for others - caring). Applicants will also need to fill out page 2 of the application and attach a current transcript.

Please feel free to recommend any senior, even if you think/know they have already been recommended. Please think carefully about what you write. Your responses will be passed on to those you recommend.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorrie Webb, VHS Counselor, at 429-3521.

Thank you,
**Kathi Fetch
Vernonia**

Objects to form for request of information

To the Editor:

On January 19, 2005, Columbia County's three Commissioners, Tony Hyde, Rita Bernhard, and Joe Corsiglia, voted

to pass an ordinance that in order for American citizens to view, make copies of public information, a person must first fill out an official form requesting the said information. When asked why? the answer was so we will know who has requested what, and we will have a record of it. This way no one will steal the file or files.

I can understand keeping all information in a file complete but I believe that there are easier ways to obtain this objective rather than imposing fascist, Big Brother tactics on the citizens of this county.

The commissioners several years ago imposed a charge of 25 cents per page per copy plus a min. charge for employee time if the employee had to do research for certain requests, this was to keep the cost down for the county, this was brought about when lawyers and realtors were requesting too many copies and costing the county thousands of dollars. I believe that this regulation has worked sufficiently to this time.

My request of some road maps would have been easy as of old rule, I would of went down to the County Road Dept. told them what I wanted, they would of copied off the request, I would of paid for the copies and went on my way. BUT NOW this new bit of rule making makes it harder and time consuming for the interested citizen to be part of his or her government. Let's not forget the added paper work, added fax time, added work on the commissioners secretary who has been delegated to properly handle all requests, extra postage to send out the information, extra travel expense for the citizen, added all around cost associated with any newly adopted ordinance.

Is it to keep track of certain individual citizens and what they are inquiring about? Is it to make access to our government harder? Is it to throw roadblocks out so people lose interest in an issue? I believe that our beloved commissioners are forgetting who pays their salaries, and whom they are working for. I for one believe that it is none of the commissioners business what public information I or any other citizen

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