

Letters

Shouldn't print errors in Johnson's update

To the Editor:

I was totally blown away by the unelected Senator Betsy Johnson's update. You have totally sabotaged your fellow democrat by allowing her to make a fool of herself in print. You also reduce the credibility of The INDEPENDENT for not having fact checked and or correcting her errors.

Issue one: unless it has moved in the last two weeks. Oregon Institute of Technology is still in Klamath Falls, not Ashland. Issue two: the Bend campus of OSU opened about two years ago. If the UO or other school has a new bill to which the Senator refers as having been recently introduced, she should have listed the OSU-Bend campus with OIT and OHSU. Issue three: Just how many U-Cal/Cal State campus' are within one hundred miles of San Jose?

Having read your page two report from the Senator, it would follow that The INDE-

PENDENT should at the very least demand an explanation for all this misinformation. If you are truly doing your job and standing for journalistic excellence, you should call for Senator Johnson's immediate resignation for being incompetent, because your newspaper has done such a wonderful job of demonstrating just how incompetent she is.

Thank you,
Bergh Bechen Banks

Ed. note: Senator Johnson is not a columnist for The INDEPENDENT so we do not edit her copy; it is printed as we receive it, on a space-available basis. All state legislators who represent this area are allowed the same opportunity. We do not edit their submissions because area residents should be allowed to read what their representatives in Salem say without interpretation from us.

Nature's gifts being destroyed for a view

To the Editor:

Wiping out majestic trees for a VIEW?

This approach really holds some irony, doesn't it?

I live at the end of B St. My property is right next to the hillside. I have enjoyed the view of the beautiful trees for the entire 10 years I've lived here.

Today, the smell of death and tree sap is in the air. The scrub jays and crows are flying around confused and scared as their homes are being destroyed. Why? I've been told that the trees are being taken down so some lots can be sold on top of the hill. Apparently those lots will sell for more money if they have a view – so the trees have to go. What about the view of our children, as they gaze at yet another raped hillside? How will they view us years from now?

Not much is left, people. It's time to realize that this "destruction for profit" party is over. You've successfully destroyed much of this area. It's time to stop. I'm taking a moment now to mourn the loss of yet another of Mother Nature's gifts at the hands of greedy men.

When the woodsman carried

the ax into the forest, the trees whispered among themselves, "Look, the handle is one of us!"

Sincerely,
Kim Sebring Vernonia

Clean up day is near, join in the day's fun

To the Editor:

Vernonia Pride wishes to invite members of the community to come out and join us for this year's clean up day. It will be May 7, registration at the Providence Health Center starting at 9:00 a.m. Penny Costley of Vernonia Jazzercise will be kicking off registration with a demonstration to get you all pumped and ready to go.

Please bring your yard tools, weed eaters are especially needed. If you are a group or organization or have a specific area or project in mind, please pre-register by calling Donna Webb at 503-429-5201.

Plan on a free lunch and an opportunity for a massage by Heather Lewis of New Day Massage at the Scout Cabin at 1:00 p.m. Heather will be donating all proceeds to Vernonia Pride.

Come join the fun and make Vernonia Shine.

Donna Webb Vernonia Pride

Uncaring person hits boy, then drives away

To the Editor:

This letter is to the man whom on March 10, 2005 while turning onto Bridge Street off of East Ave., hit my son while he was crossing in the crosswalk.

Thank you for not stopping after your car and you hit him. Thank you for not seeing if he was okay before you fled the scene. And last, Thank you for not taking the time of a responsible driver and reporting it to the authorities.

My son is in a lot of pain and discomfort due to your negligence. It is uncaring people like you that make me afraid to be on the road.

To all of the responsible drivers, thank your for your safe ways.

Sincerely,
Elana M. Brasure Vernonia

New school building doesn't meet needs

To The Editor:

I am compelled to voice my opinion regarding the new school building that is planned for construction on the grounds of Washington Grade School; I think it will be a mistake to proceed with the current building plan.

A few years ago we, as a community, voted against a bond that would have provided money to build new schools. As a concept, I am in support of new schools and am more than willing to pay the extra taxes associated with a school bond. It was a difficult choice to vote against the bond but I did not agree with the proposed building concept nor did I feel that the plan for the delivery and execution of the building was adequately developed to convince the public to vote for the bond. I know that many people did a lot of work to get that school bond on the ballot and as a citizen I thought when it got defeated that they would refine the concept and try again. Unfortunately this did not happen.

Now the decision for a new school building has been removed from the hands of the public that our school system services and kept within the circle of influence of the current administration of our Vernonia schools. It is my opinion that this circle of influence would include the school board. Fortunately, this circle does not extend into the City of Vernonia Planning Commission. Thanks to some forward thinking individuals on the planning commission, the city approval for the new building has not yet been acquired.

After reviewing the building design drawings, this building does not fit aesthetically with the existing school buildings. A big part of Vernonia's charm is the wonderful brick school buildings that we have. This new building would dictate the look of future school buildings since we would want our future schools to all have the same style of construction. Since the proposed building is a metal fab building, any future buildings would also be metal fabs.

Please see page 17

Between the Bookends

By Ann Krutsinger, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



April's Preschool Story Time at the Banks Library started on the 6th with "What Is It, Anyway?"

April 13th will feature "Picky People."

April 20th will have "Ducklings on Parade."

April 27th will be an intriguing "Eggs Got Legs!"

The date of the Annual Friends of the Library Plant & Book Sale has been scheduled for Friday, May 6, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 7, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is an excellent time to purchase flowers, shrubs, trees, vegetable and herb starts, and yard and garden art. If you want to make donations of plants or books please call the library at 503 324-1382.

If you want the latest information on the City of Banks and all of its departments, go online to < CityofBanks.org >. There you'll find a link to the library, the police, the planning commission, etc. There is also a link to the new Friends of the Banks Library web page.

Some new titles just arrived at the library! Rebecca Wells' newest work of fiction, *Ya-Yas in Bloom*, should be on the shelves by the first week in April. This book tells the story of the beginnings of the Ya-Ya sisterhood. It all started when Teensy gets a big old pecan up her nose. The story is told in the alternating voices of Vivi and the petites Ya-Ya, Siddalee and Baylor

Walker, as well as other residents of Thornton, Louisiana. For those who have read Wells' other tales of the Ya-Ya sisterhood, this book will be a known delight. For the uninitiated, *Ya-Yas in Bloom* is a brand new adventure to be relished.

Nevada Barr's latest mystery, *Hard Truth*, is set in the Rocky Mountain National Park. Three days after marrying Sheriff Paul Davidson, Anna Pigeon moves from Mississippi to the Colorado Rockies to assume her new post as district ranger in the Rocky Mountain National Park. Three girls have disappeared during a religious retreat. Two of the girls show up after a month – dirty and bedraggled, but alive. They claim they remember nothing of the abduction or anything that has happened over the past month. Sinister signs of evil plague Anna...slaughtered small animals, and the workings of a paranoid religious sect bent on keeping its secrets.

The Washington Post calls Elizabeth Peters "Grande Dame of historical mystery." Her newest mystery is called *The Serpent on the Crown*, and, once again, she brings ancient Egypt to life with a story of intrigue, suspense and danger.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12 - 7:00 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 12 - 5:00 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays,
10:15 a.m., through July.
Phone: (503) 324-1382
Internet: www.WILnet.wccs.lib.or.us. to
browse library resources or to reserve
materials electronically.