

Letters

Make Vernonia Shine day will be May 7th

To the Editor:

This year's "Make Vernonia Shine" day, sponsored by Vernonia Pride will be held May 7.

Registration will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Providence Medical Group building. Come watch Jazzercise kick off the event. The event goes until 1:00 p.m. Groups and organizations are asked to register early by calling Donna Webb at 503-429-5201. If you have a project or area you wish to go to, tell her at that time.

If you have the following tools, please bring them: hoes, weed eaters, rakes, gloves, etc.

Lunch will be furnished at the Scout Cabin at 1:00 p.m., free for all who helped.

For your tired aching muscles, Heather Lewis of New Day Massage and Body Works will offer massages. The charge will be \$1 a minute with all proceeds going to Vernonia Pride.

Hope to see you there.

**Deloris Webb
Vernonia Pride**

Expect trees to be cut in logging community

To the Editor:

I have been reading the Letters to the Editor with great interest. With every edition I have more questions. Vernonia and surrounding areas have been logging communities for well over 100 years. The forests have been managed as a renewable crop. Are there still

trees here? Do we not see them replanted when there is a logging job done? Logging is an honorable profession. They are great caretakers of the land. Our climate can grow a fir tree faster than anywhere in the world. We do not make our living in the logging industry, but we are having trouble of late with the constant criticism of logging and loggers.

My main question is where people get the feeling of entitlement when they buy a piece of property. They own the piece they paid for. If there is a forest next door, they feel they have a right to say what is done with it. The fact that someone else paid for it, pays taxes on it, and chooses to cut the trees is none of their business. My suggestion would be buy the land with

the trees so they won't be cut. I don't think Vernonia is a good place to live if you don't understand that it is a logging community. It seems easy to figure out when every other rig you meet coming to town is a log truck.

**Caroline Cook
Vernonia**

Correction is in order

To the Editor:

Bergh Bechen, in his letter published in the April 7th edition of *The Independent*, points out a very embarrassing error I made in a recent Legislative Report you graciously published. The Oregon Institute of Technology is, in fact, in Klamath Falls and not in Ashland. I apologize to you and your readers for the mistake.

Best regards,

**Betsy Johnson
State Senator**

Floor drains can be hazardous to health

To the Editor:

Especially for stay at home people. Plumbing always incorporates a "P" Trap or similar device to block sewer or septic gas in drain systems.

Traps must have water in them at all times! This includes floor drains, sinks, showers and tubs.

When not used for lengthy periods water evaporates allowing gas to enter your living or working quarters.

To eliminate this problem pour water into drains at least every two weeks.

Good health to all.

**K. P. Fisher
Vernonia**

Real life questions for drug addiction

To the Editor:

What are you? A liar and a thief, a business person working in the shadows as a dealer of deception and pain praying on the weak to survive, your co-workers wear masks to hide their past, hoping to avoid the pain, your boss is the product that controls your life, as you try to avoid responsibility while so eagerly consuming that which has consumed you.

Who are you? You are the child of a parent that struggles

between hope and disappointment, you are the parent of a child who hears only promises, apologies, and "I'll see you soon." Abandoned and betrayed time after time they miss you, yet they dread your return, they fear the chaos that surrounds you yet they continue to love you.

You set unrealistic goals and make no attempt to reach them, refusing to realize your own potential, unable to live as you are and unwilling to change, who or what you have become is the host of a parasite drug.

You are an addict, stop letting the bag be the boss.

**Sam K. Potter
Vernonia**

Beware of liberal public education

To the Editor:

Believe it or not folks, the major political issue of today is not the "privatization" of Social Security. One way or the other America will eventually come to terms with this issue and resolve the matter (for better or worse) within the narrow limits of congressional responsibility. No, the major issue in America today goes to the heart of our culture and the character of our society. When we, as a nation, relinquish our elective responsibility to the judicial powers of state and local government — we put our culture at risk. It's called "judicial tyranny" by submission.

What amounts to a war, involves every level of society from toddlers and students to adults and educators. By the time our (publicly educated) children reach college age many are thoroughly brainwashed into accepting liberal ideology without question. Once in college, the overwhelming force of liberal thinking takes charge and the indoctrination of the liberal mind-set is complete. In a recent analysis — the depth of liberalism in our universities and colleges was brought to light in a Washington Post commentary by staff writer Howard Kurtz:

*Tuesday, March 29, 2005;
"College faculties, long assumed to be a liberal bastion, lean further to the left than even the most conspiratorial con-*

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Did you know that the flowering dogwood is considered by some gardeners to be the harbinger of warmer weather and that they watch for the emerging blooms and use that as a guide as a safe time to plant? Be sure and watch the dogwood plants

at the library as they begin to blossom. But, as the latest issue of *Birds & Blooms* tells us, these "flowers" are actually modified leaves and that the true flower is yellowish green and is located in the center of the four "petals". To learn more about the flowering dogwood and its long and colorful history, be sure to check out the Feb/March issue of this magazine at the library. Inside the library you will also find the annual symbol of spring with the Study Club-sponsored Silver Tea, to be held Wednesday, May 11 from 2:30 until 4:30. The ladies of this organization will have the library decorated with collectable tea pots and flowers from their gardens as they serve tea, punch, and cookies. Entertainment this year will feature Madeleine Gendron's musicians as well as Bert and Barbara Tschache's musical offerings. The public is invited and any donations received will be used to benefit the library. Previously purchased items have been a display for DVD's, a laminating machine, and a speaker system.

The spring "Adopt a Book for the Library" display is in place. Most of the items are books that will be used to supplement the 2005 Summer Reading theme of "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds," as well as a few new gardening books.

Be sure and have Thursday, May 5th marked on your calendars as the date for the visit of authors, Patricia Rushford and Birdie Etchison. This event will take place at 7:00 p.m. and will feature discussions about writing by these

prominent northwest authors, as well as offering the opportunity for purchasing books by these ladies.

We are also pleased to announce that Forrest Wheeler, one of our favorite local residents, better known by some as one of the clowns who went to Afghanistan a few years ago in a project to help children of that country, will be here to speak and sign copies of his newly published book, *Using the Power of Humor to Improve Your Life*. This event will take place Thursday, May 19 at 4:00 p.m. Having heard Mr. Wheeler speak, I can attest that all in attendance will be entertained and inspired.

New books include *Hard Truth* by Nevada Barr, *Murder at Five Finger Light* by Sue Henry, *No Place Like Home* by Mary Higgins Clark, *Saturday* by Ian McEwan, *Legacy of Masks* by Sallie Bissell, *Ya-Yas in Bloom* by Rebecca Wells, *Plan B* by Anne Lamott, *The Ice Queen* by Alice Hoffman, and *The Years of Pleasure* by Elizabeth Berg.

Book for discussion this month is *A Parchment of Leaves* by Silas House, with the next meeting taking place Monday, May 23rd at 5:30.

For parents and others interested in the upcoming performance by Vernonia's 7th grade class, the library has "The Music Man" on DVD which may be checked out. Be forewarned, as we have been by our grandson, that since this is a movie, it has a copywrite and cannot be videotaped by the audience.

Enjoy the season by watching nature as it is awakening from winter and by taking advantage of the offerings of your local library.

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