

Letters

Important meeting on air strip expansion

To the Editor:

Anyone interested in preserving the peaceful country environment in western Washington County from the noise and hazards of a commercial airport, needs to attend the upcoming community meetings.

Some information has been written lately in the local papers about the planned expansion of the Apple Valley Airport in Buxton, but not much has been said about how it will effect more than just the residents of the Buxton community.

With the planned helicopter flight training and sightseeing flights, anyone in the flight path of Hagg Lake, the Flying M, Mt. St. Helens, or anywhere for that matter, will have to put up with the noise of helicopters and the danger of student pilots. Anyone that has heard or been around helicopters knows that they are a great deal noisier than airplanes. The only limitation to the number of aircraft or helicopters that Apple Valley Airport can have is how many that can be put there, and with over 40 acres, you pick a number. But noise is not the only issue, as the new owner wants to

put on-site fueling tanks to attract more air traffic to this quiet country community. And all this on a piece of property that is zoned EFC (exclusive forest conservation), and AF 20, and is also completely, 100 percent in a flood plane, that also borders Dairy Creek.

Now anyone that lives in Washington County knows with zoning like that, one would be hard pressed to get a permit to build a dog house, yet this guy wants to have a commercial airport, with a jet fuel storage depot there.

If Apple Valley is successful however, it will not stop there.

As the county legislature, a few years ago, legally, but under the radar (a little airport lingo there) of most people, adopted a bill (609), that would grandfather in most existing airstrips, to be able to expand them into larger airports with few restrictions. Not only the people that live next to an already established airstrip will be effected however. So anyone that wants to protect the investment of their home and the livability of their community needs to get involved and stop this expansion of the Apple Valley Airport.

We did not move next to an airport and then complain about all the dangers and noise, but instead, a commercial airport is about to disrupt the quiet community of Buxton, and beyond. If this expansion is not stopped, one will likely be coming to a community near you in the future.

So for anyone that is interested, on Thursday, July 28, at 6:00 p.m., at the Banks Christian Academy, Fisher Rd., Buxton (the old Buxton School), is the required Washington County community meeting, so anyone that wants to express their opinion needs to attend.

Also there is a web site (naave.org) for the local action group if anyone is interested in getting updated information.

**Barry Vandehey
Banks**

Prettiest fireworks display writer's seen

To the Editor:

To the Fireworks Team: First, let me say that I am new to Vernonia and this was my first Independence Day celebration here.

When I lived in Portland, quite a number of years ago, my husband and I were active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and we spend many Fourth of July weekends on river patrol and subsequently had "front row seats" to the fireworks displays from Fort Vancouver. These displays were usually touted as being "largest fireworks displays west of the Rockies."

In regards to Vernonia's display this Fourth, Fort Vancouver's may have been larger, but this was one of the prettiest fireworks displays I have ever seen. A huge bouquet of roses

and a giant basket of thank you's to the team that chose the fireworks and put on the display. You did a fantastic job!!! Your hard work is appreciated!!!

**Judith Stefan
Vernonia newcomer**

Logging should not put people at risk

To the Editor:

I am a long-time resident, homeowner, and taxpayer in Vernonia. As such, I am well aware that this is a logging community. After all, the raising and harvesting of timber is what Vernonia and Oregon is all about. I understand this, and I don't have a problem with it.

What I do have a problem with is the flagrant disregard for the safety and well-being of the women, children, and in my case, senior citizens living on B and C streets below OA Hill. The stripping of all the timber on the back side of OA Hill has put all of us in harm's way.

The events of 1996 should give us all some insight as to what can happen should Vernonia have another wet winter. Floods and mudslides are very real possibilities.

The damage has been done. Our only hope now is that the people involved will have the moral conviction to place some fast-growing ground cover on this hillside before the winter rains come.

Sincerely,
**Don Sandrich
Vernonia**

Thanks for support of Booster barbecue

To the Editor:

The Vernonia Booster Club would like to extend a big THANK YOU to the people from our community, as well as those just visiting over the 4th of July holiday. We had such great patronage at our barbecue that we sold out of food. We also appreciate the patience of those who waited in line for their burger or hot dog.

Thank you again to all for your support of the Booster Club and Vernonia youth.

**Marla Rethwill
Booster Club Secretary
Vernonia**

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Can you answer the following riddles from the Summer Reading theme of "Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds"? (Answers at end of article)

1. What was Camelot?
2. What king of medieval England was famous because he spent so many nights at his Round Table writing books?

3. When was King Arthur's army too tired to fight?

Youngsters may still join the fun on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. Registrations and reading logs are available at the library. Though the last session will be Wednesday, August 3rd, residents will be able to see the participating youngsters on their float in the Jamboree parade, and reading goals may be met with prizes awarded until the end of August.

The Friends of the Library-sponsored book sale will also be on Saturday of Jamboree weekend from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The only differences this year, from past sales, are that this sale will be at the library and a few selected items will be \$1.00 each. Most items will still be .25 each and items to be raffled will be books—Stella Satern Bellingham's "The Nehalem River Valley," J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," and Jack Kent's "There's No Such Thing as a Dragon." One last book drop for those wishing to donate books for the sale will be at the library on Saturday, July 23 from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Keep in mind that the library is now open until 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. This year we will be trying something new—a Saturday afternoon movie for youngsters and a family movie night. We are in the process of applying for the license to show movies in the library and are excited about this new activity. The library has a great selection of old movies, including *The Parent Trap*, *The Long, Long Trailer*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, and *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, and we

are hoping the public will spend an evening enjoying these at the air-conditioned library. We will even provide the popcorn.

When purchasing items this year, an effort is being made to add as many books on CD as the budget will allow. New acquisitions in this format currently include "Broken Prey" by John Sandford, "One Shot" by Lee Child, "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Kidd, and "Looking for Peyton Place" by Barbara Delinsky. New books include "Fire Sale" by Sara Paretsky, "Cross Bones" by Kathy Reichs, "Case of Lies" by Perri O'Shaughnessy, "High Plains Tango" by Robert James Waller, "Always Time to Die" by Elizabeth Lowell, "No Man's Land" by G.M. Ford, "Origin in Death" by J.D. Robb and "Lifeguard" by James Patterson.

Two very different books were chosen by the discussion group for the next two months. They are "The Phantom Toll Booth" by Norton Juster and "It's Not About the Bike" by Lance Armstrong. Next meeting will be Monday, August 1st at 5:30 in the library. New members are always welcome to join this informal book discussion group.

For the young baseball enthusiast, we just received a series of instructional DVDs. These are for youngsters ages 6-16 and focus on proper execution of key fundamentals, presented in a clear concise fashion with graphics and video close-ups to illustrate important points.

Remember, donations are always gratefully accepted and are added to the collection when possible. If not, they are sold by the Friends of the Library with all proceeds to benefit the library.

Answers to riddles:

1. A place where people parked their camels!
2. King Author!
3. When they had lots of sleepless knights!

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. - 4 p.m.

Preschool Story Time: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., when school is in session.

Phone: (503) 429-1818