

Letters

Thanks for great idea of Halloween parade

To the Editor:
 HATS OFF and a BIG round of applause to Camrin Eyrrick for having the foresight to start what I hope will be a yearly event. She planned and put together the Halloween Sidewalk Parade for the younger kids in town. It was great for the little kids and the adults as well. I counted approximately 90 kids (including the ones in strollers) that participated in this event. The businesses that helped support this need a BIG THANK YOU too!! Being a Monday, there were several businesses that were closed but the ones that were open all

had big smiles while handing out treats to the kids. Here's hoping that more businesses will help support this fun time in the coming years.

THANKS CAMRIN!!!!!!!!!!!!
 JOB WELL DONE!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Janie Wasmann
 Vernonia**

Students are helping NW Medical Teams

To the Editor:
 A group of Vernonia students has volunteered to help Northwest Medical Teams by collecting items for hygiene kits to go out to hurricane victims and such.

From November 21 through January 21, the students will

have bins at Sentry, US Bank, Wauna Federal Credit Union, and all four schools including Mist. There will also be a collection bin at Birkenfeld Fire Station. Items that can be donated are toothpaste, aspirin, shampoo, combs, brushes, Nix, RID, Pronto, Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, multi-vitamins (child and adult), cold medicine, Tums, Band-Aids, Neosporin, anti-fungal cream, toothbrushes, bar soap, acetaminophen, and ibuprofen. These items may be deposited in bins around town from Nov. 21 to Jan. 21. The students will then take the items to Northwest Medical Teams.

Later in the year the students will hold a new towel drive, collecting towels for Ro-

manian orphans.

The students hold meetings twice a month in Vernonia and go to the SAC (Student Action Council) meetings at NW Medical Teams head office in Tigard.

Actively participating students will have the opportunity to submit an application to go with an international volunteer team to Mexico City or Oaxaca, Mexico. The trip will be either during spring break or in June. The application process is quite intense and, if chosen the student must raise \$1,500 to pay for his/her own trip.

**Donna Webb
 Vernonia**

Salmon Festival team did a great job

To the Editor:
 A very big THANK YOU to all of the people that worked so hard to make the Salmon Festival a success this year. We are a great team.

I would like to invite anyone that would like to join our team to call me at 503-429-9002. We can always use more volunteers.

**Shirlee Daughtry
 Vernonia Festival Committee**

Results of 1st Festival Fishing Derby

To the Editor:
 The first (hopefully annual) Salmon Festival Fishing Derby is now history. Turnout was lower than expected, yet everybody had a good time. Lots of local youth took advantage of Lake Vernonia being stocked with trout and took some real nice trout home.

Due to the lower than expected return on tagged fish, the prize money was adjusted to reward those who supported

the derby. Following are the winners:

- Kraig Carter, Vernonia, Green tag – \$50
- Daniel Forbragd, Beaverton, Yellow tag – \$15
- Andy Clark, North Plain, Yellow tag – \$15
- Tom Nelson, Portland, 2 Red tags – Consolation prize.

We want to thank the 23 entrants for helping raise much needed funds for next year's youth fishing derby to be held during the Salmon Festival.

One of the two 40% payout tags was caught by a local youth, but unfortunately he was not registered for the derby. Many other tags were also caught by unregistered people. Approximately 85 trout of the estimated 300 were caught during the derby.

We have learned a lot this year and will apply that knowledge to next year's event to make it bigger and better.

**Dale Webb
 Vernonia**

Found help needed in an Independent ad

To the Editor:
 When you live in Vernonia and don't have friends or family to help with repairs, what do you do? Until recently I didn't know. I saw a new ad for a Handyman in the classified section of *The Independent*. I called the number and spoke with Brian. He started working the next day and has been here several days as my work list keeps getting longer. His prices are reasonable; he works hard and has great skills. Beyond all that he is dependable. I hope the community will support him in his new business. His services are seriously needed in Vernonia.

**Sharon Terrazas
 Vernonia**

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
 Vernonia Public Library



Even though the Mayflower with its 102 passengers dropped anchor in Massachusetts on November 21, 1620, it wasn't until after the harvest of 1623 that they celebrated their first day of thanksgiving. (The original feast in the Fall of 1621 was just that—a feast.)

While celebrating an annual thanksgiving continued through those early years, a national day of thanks was first declared by George Washington in 1789. In the early 1800s this presidential thanksgiving proclamation ceased until about the middle of the nineteenth century, when many states were celebrating Thanksgiving Day and on October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November to be set aside as a national holiday of Thanksgiving. In 1939, with the country still struggling to recover from the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving from the fourth Thursday in November to the third Thursday with the hope that by adding one extra week for Christmas shopping the economy would be given a boost. Unfortunately, some of the states continued to celebrate on the last Thursday of the month and, in 1941, Congress decreed that Thanksgiving should fall on the fourth Thursday of November; this proclamation still stands.

The library has recipes, ideas for table and home decorating, games, crafts, stories, poems, songs and prayers to add to the enjoyment of this National Holiday celebrated in remembrance of all the things for which we are truly thankful.

There was a great audience for Merv Johnson's, November 5th, program on historic logging. It was gratifying to see several people who don't usually use the library. If there are speakers or topics of interest that would be an incentive for these residents to return, please let me

know. A copy of Mr. Johnson's book, *In Search of Steam Donkeys*, has been added to the library's collection of reference books.

Library board members are presently choosing books to be adopted (purchased) as gifts for the library during the holiday season. These items will be offered at 20 percent off the retail price and will be on display by early December. This promotion will once again be made possible by the St. Helens Bookshop, which as moved to a new location just south of the Dollar Tree on Highway 30 in St. Helens.

New acquisitions include *Predator* by Patricia Cornwell, *At First Sight* by Nicholas Sparks, *Jarhead* by Anthony Swofford, *Fury* by Robert Tanenbaum, *The Franciscan Conspiracy* by John Sack, *The Camel Club* by David Baldacci, *Best American Short Stories of 2005*, *The Christmas Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini and *Saving Fish from Drowning* by Amy Tan.

The book to be discussed on December 5th is Catherine Marshall's *A Man Called Peter*. Time for this informal discussion group to meet is 5:30 at the library.

Don't forget Pre-school story time at 10:30 on Monday mornings and Reading Enrichment on Mondays at 3:30 when school is in session.

Mark your calendar for Family Movie Night—Saturday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. The film will be one that the entire family can enjoy and popcorn and apple juice will be served.

As Charlie Brown says, "...it doesn't matter where you eat Thanksgiving dinner. Whether it's at a condo or at a doghouse, it will always be special when your share the feast with friends." Enjoy your day of thanks!

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

POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT is pleased to publish letters from our readers. The following guidelines will help assure that your letter is published:

- No anonymous letters will be published. All letters must be signed and have a verifiable name and address, though only the town will be printed.
- Personal attacks on individuals will not be printed. Comments on public figures are accepted as long as they relate to the public function.
- Brief letters will receive first consideration.