

Letters

RidgeRiders warn of fund raising scam

To the Editor:

It has come to the attention of the Vernonia RidgeRiders that certain juveniles have been going door-to-door attempting to solicit cash donations from Vernonia residents. It is not a policy of the RidgeRiders to raise money in this manner. We do have a saddle on display at Vernonia Hardware where tickets are being sold for a raffle at Jam-boree. This is the ONLY authorized fundraiser that the Vernonia RidgeRiders have so far this year.

If you are approached for a donation of any kind on behalf of the Vernonia RidgeRiders, please ask for identification and a contact number to verify that the fundraiser is legitimate.

Anyone who has recently been contacted to donate money to the Vernonia RidgeRiders or who has any information on the identity of those involved, are asked to call George and

Deloris Bellingham at 503-429-9523, and/or the Vernonia Police Dept. at 503-429-7335. The Vernonia RidgeRiders sincerely apologize to the residents of Vernonia for this unauthorized solicitation. We are taking immediate action to investigate this situation.

Jeri Cropp
Vernonia RidgeRiders

Don't let "progress" replace libraries

To the Editor:

I remember going to my school library or the public library as a child – admittedly a long time ago. It was a special place where you spoke in whispers if you spoke at all. It was quiet and very peaceful, and there were thousands of books. My, how times have changed. I worked at WGS when the computer lab was put in next to the library and the rooms were connected. Computer classes were taught in the lab and there were computers in the library as well. The sanctity of the library was

gone forever, and it was called progress.

Now it seems even the name – library – is also gone. Now at the high school the library is referred to as the Media Center. Computers are here to stay and it's important that our children learn to use them. I'm not against computers, this letter is being typed on one. What I am against is the devaluation of books. The world has become such a hectic dehumanizing place that the simple joy of curling up with a good book has been relegated to something that only old people do. To open a computer one needs codes and passwords, and all is lost if the power goes out. Books have no moving parts, and the only codes needed are the ABCs and the ability to use them. Books are the Ultimate in User friendly, and should the power fail, one can read by sunlight, firelight or gas light.

While this is truly the Information Age, and computers have sped up the process of

acquiring that information, faster isn't necessarily better. My concern is that the young people of today will confuse knowledge with wisdom, and prose with poetry.

I realize that schools today don't have a great deal of money and that space is an issue, but I wish the Board, the administrators and the staff would take a long hard look at the choices being made. If we truly want to promote literacy in this community then we'd better make reading seem more attractive than good keyboarding skills. The library should be a separate area and should be held in high esteem. How much better it will be if kids remember "...quoth the raven, 'Nevermore'..." echoing from the library rather than, "Reboot! Reboot!"

Alice Brock
Vernonia

Fund raiser for Head Start was great event

To the Editor:

Vernonia Head Start parent group would like to thank all the volunteers for the wonderful fundraising dinner on February 10 at the Scout Cabin. It was a huge success and helped the Vernonia Head Start school and its families.

A large special thanks to Keisha Brewster with Just In Time Catering for ALL she did, also thanks to: Black Bear Coffee, Tea and Tassels, Vernonia Hardware, New Day Massage and Body Works – Heather Lewis, Marie's Massage Therapy, The Independent, Spiralz, Vernonia Golf Club, Monarch Hotel and Sam's Restaurant, Courtyard by Marriott, Clowns Unlimited, Event Floral, Notes of Celebration – Linda Smith, Signature Event Group, Lulu's Antiques, Country Kitchen & Pizza Diner, Simply Delicious – Patti Ogden, Vernonia Scout Cabin, The Pattersons, Judy Steffan, Red Robin, Something Sweet, and DeAngelo's Catering.

It was a wonderful evening with a romantic feel and a nice time to sit and dine with friends from Vernonia.

Thanks again for all the parents that took the time away from your families to make this night a wonderful experience.

Heidi Ferguson
Parent and Coordinator

Changes underway in Animal Control

To the Editor:

A local animal lover in the Vernonia area who knows what changes we are attempting to make at the Columbia County Animal Shelter sent us a copy of *The INDEPENDENT* paper's "Bits & Bites" editorial comment from February 2nd.

To address the comments regarding the person finding and rescuing a lost puppy and then having to give the animal to animal control and why pay for a "good deed." Oregon Revised Statutes list dogs as personal property and require certain procedures for the legal transfer of ownership of the dog to another person. To just keep the animal in an attempt to do a good deed could be considered theft by the dogs owners.

Animal control regulations and policy on found dogs is not as harsh as the article suggest. Our policy is that found dogs must come to the shelter. At the shelter they are checked for Avid microchip. The animal is then photographed and placed into a national data base (Pet Finder) and on the county web pages as a found dog. The information on the animal is checked against lost dog records with both Columbia County and the Humane Society. The animal is given a health check and vaccinated for Parvo and DHLPP to assure it's continued health.

The animal is also available for owners to come and check to see if their lost pet is at the shelter. After three business days the animal may be legally adopted, under Oregon Law.

The animal is then tested for temperament and other health and safety concerns for any potential adopter.

The fees collected for this do not begin to cover the cost in time, vaccinations and care provided. We also offer to anyone who finds a stray animal the options to foster or adopt. In this case the animal, after being photographed and checked for a microchip, is allowed to return home with the finder. After 7 days the animal can be adopted by the finder at a reduced or even fee-waived basis. This minimal fee is set by

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Between the Bookends

By Angie Spiering, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



It is now 2006. Welcome to the New Year. Get the year off to a good start. Join Miss Cathy for Preschool Storytime on Wednesdays at 10:15 am. Miss Cathy has been with us for the past 6 years. She entertains children & their parents during storytime. Our storytime is on Wednesday mornings starting at 10:15 am.

The themes for March are:

- March 8th: Bing Bang Bong
- March 15th: Hoppy Floppy Friends
- March 22nd: Let's Flyaway

Preschool storytime will not be held during spring break, March 29th.

Don't forget about the Cultural Pass Program! Banks has added a new museum to the list. Below is a list of passes that the Banks Public Library has available for check out. You may check out up to two per day. The passes are available for a one day loan period. Our library does accept telephone reservations once you are registered for the program. Each pass has its own rules for use.

- Portland Art Museum
- Oregon Garden
- Children's Museum
- Washington County Museum
- Rice Rock Museum
- Pittock Mansion

Portland Chinese Garden
Forestry Center
Japanese Garden
Oregon Sports Hall of Fame

The annual Friends of the Banks Public Library Book and Plant Sale will be held on Friday May 5th and Saturday May 6th. Times to follow.

On our new book shelf we have:

Die Laughing by Carola Dunn. That irrepressible sleuth, the Honorable Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher, faces another case of mayhem and mischief in the latest installment of Carola Dunn's charming mystery series. This time, Daisy is confronted with a dentist who has made his last appointment...

Hello, Darkness by Sandra Brown. Bestselling author Sandra Brown is the master of the knife-edge thriller. Her latest and most powerful novel to date, *Hello, Darkness*, is the gripping story of a woman haunted by her past and caught in a nightmare that threatens to destroy her future. It's a brilliant, fast-paced tale, electric with sexual tension, by one of America's most popular authors of sophisticated suspense.

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 at 10:15 a.m.

Phone: (503) 324-1382 for information
(503) 846-3245 to renew material

Internet: <www.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us.>
Browse library resources, reserve or renew materials online. *Call for information.*