

## Letters

### Children learn from parents' behavior

To the Editor:

Because the government isn't helping mothers stay home and raise their children, children are being brought up on their own. Mothers have been forced into the working environment, leaving their children sometimes on their own to fend for themselves.

I've run into situations where I've had to discuss the inappropriate behavior of some children with their parents. I've had my kid hit in the face by another,

I've had kids ride their bike up my kid's body as she's standing there. Starting at her feet and going up her leg to her body, with their bikes. What's troubling to me is that parents accept this behavior thereby creating so called "bullies."

Parents that I've confronted have either become enemies or just rudely ignore us, when at one time friendship was there.

Today my daughter came home with a terrible scratch down her back from a girl who was supposedly teasing at first to poke her with the pen, then the incident actually occurred. Teacher accepted it as an "accident" and no disciplinary action was taken. After speaking to the principal and he telling me accidents do occur, I of course ended up at the Superintendent's office.

I want to remind parents that we, as grown-ups, have to make good role models and refrain from getting angry at another grown-up for trying to discuss the inappropriate behavior of a child. I love children and maybe because I lost one, I care about them so much more.

I believe in forgive and forget and would never hold a grudge on anybody. I wish other parents wouldn't hate me for corrective criticism, but I do address matters when necessary and hope parents will learn to find it important to teach their children right from wrong, and not be intimidated by someone else's reaction to a situation that needs to be attended to.

Caring for the future of our children,

**Virginia Kepner  
Vernonia**

### "Yard of the Month" starts up for summer

To the Editor:

Vernonia Pride is once again sponsoring the "Yard of the Month," so get out there and choose your favorite yard. Nominations may be left at City Hall, there will be a box just inside the second door.

To all the newcomers and some of you old timers, don't forget about our walking tour books and also the book, *Pocket in the Woods*, both are a good source of Vernonia history and may be purchased at Sentry Market in the video department.

We're still in the brick business, too, so if you haven't already bought yours, here's your chance.

To all new Vernonians, the bricks are placed around the Shay locomotive in Shay Park. You can have up to three lines with seventeen letters on each line. The price is \$25.00 and bricks can be purchased by calling Donna Webb at 429-5201.

**De Loris Webb  
Vernonia Pride**

### Businesses benefit from consumer survey

To the Editor:

This letter is to let the citizens of Vernonia and Area become aware of what is happening at the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce.

You should have already received a "Consumer" Survey in the mail. If you do not receive one and would like to fill one out please call the chamber office at 503-429-6018. You may also pick one up at City Hall or visit our web site at <www.vernoniachamber.org>. You can find a copy of it in this newspaper.

This survey is very important! We need to know what you, the shopper, would like to see done or improved upon in local businesses. When surveys are assessed we will let the public know the results. We were able to do this project with grant money we received nothing came out of tax dollars.

Some of you may not know all the things that the chamber does for the businesses and people of Vernonia. Last year our "crowning" glory was Cycle Oregon. This brought a lot of money into Vernonia and helped not only the businesses, but also many local organizations. Vernonia is NOW on the map of the cycle riders!! We still hear comments about what a great welcome Vernonia gave these people and how they will come back – either as a group or as individuals. This is a great opportunity for the businesses.

Two Christmases ago we introduced the "Holiday Bucks" promotion. This has turned into a fun success. We will be doing it again in November/December. People love to win, and having those winnings spent at local businesses is a big plus!!!

Last summer we were able to produce a marvelous Visitor's Guide. This has proved to be a great marketing tool for the local area. If you haven't seen it, please stop by the chamber office or City Hall and pick one up. If you have friends who are coming to visit from out of area let us know and we will be more than happy to send them a great informational packet.

We have a couple of exciting things in the planning stages for the upcoming months. One is a "Gift Certificate Program." If someone from out of the area wants to purchase a gift certificate for a friend or family in Vernonia they will be able to contact the chamber. We will send them the certificate and the list of businesses that it can be redeemed at. They can, in turn, send it to whomever they wish. This is a great marketing tool and has been proven successful by other chambers. This is also a great way for our chamber members to be recognized. This costs businesses nothing – but they benefit immensely.

The other event will be a fund-raiser. We are currently

**Please see page 23**

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



From May 18 until about June 18, library patrons will be greeted by three friendly and capable ladies—Camrin Eyrrick, Orissa Burghard, and Susan Knowlton. Errol and I are taking our first ever month-long vacation as

we will be going to Alaska. We're excited, but it's been a little crazy trying to make sure everything at home and work is in readiness prior to our leaving. Events will be taking place as scheduled in the library, including story times (morning and afternoon), chess club, and bedtime stories. The movie, *Air Bud—Seventh Inning Fetch*, will be shown at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 16th. The following week will be the beginning of Summer Reading Programs, which will be held on Wednesdays. This year's theme of **Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales** offers the opportunity for a variety of fun-filled activities directed by Camrin Eyrrick, Orissa Burghard and Linda Johnston. These programs will be held from late June through July and culminate with the Jamboree parade. Sign-ups and schedules are available in the library.

Mid-May through mid-June will give patrons another opportunity to "adopt" (purchase) books for the library. All of these materials will reflect the Summer Reading theme and include such titles as *Wackiest White House Pets*, *Don't Take Your Snake for a Stroll*, *I Can Draw Animals*, and *Best Book of Snakes*. These materials, obtained through the St. Helens Book Shop, range in format from paperback to hard cover to audio book to DVD and all will be offered at 20% less than the retail value. These book adoptions really help in acquiring materials for the library.

The pass to the Children's Museum has been renewed for another year by The Friends of the Library. This pass will admit one adult and two children, or two adults and one child, and may be reserved by calling the library.

Recent acquisitions include *Death Without Company* by Craig Johnson, *Clearing in the*

*Wild* by Jane Kirkpatrick, *Promise Me* by Harlan Coben, *The Saddlemaker's Wife* by Earlene Fowler, *Dark Tort* by Diane Mott Davidson, *Two Little Girls in Blue* by Mary Higgins Clark, *Beach Road* by James Patterson, and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Of these, I would recommend *Death Without Company*, Johnson's second novel featuring Absaroka County Sheriff Walt Longmire. Set in the Big Horn Mountain area of Wyoming, this mystery as well as Johnson's previous offering, *Cold Dish*, is filled with vivid descriptions of the countryside and the elements. Johnson does a remarkable job of building his characters, including Longmire, his best friend Henry Standing Bear, Deputy Victoria Moretti, former sheriff Lucian Connally, and his new deputy "Sancho". Just getting to know this cast of characters is a treat and I will be looking forward to meeting them in future novels by Johnson.

My favorite read this past month has been *Pocketful of Names* by Joe Coomer. This is the story of Hannah, an artist who has been living a solitary and dedicated life on an island off the coast of Maine. This existence is interrupted when a lovable mutt drifts in on the tide, followed by the arrival of a teen-aged runaway and Hannah's pregnant half-sister. In addition to the emotional challenges these newcomers pose for Hannah, a series of family secrets are uncovered, each one more alarming than the last. Stunning descriptions of the coast of Maine and of the lobstermen and their families combine to make this a deeply human story about the unpredictability of nature, art, family and whatever else washes up on the shore. Joe Coomer has become one of my favorite authors. We have several of his other novels including *One Vacant Chair*, *The Loop*, and *Beachcombing for a Shipwrecked God*.

**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