

Letters

From Page 2
support of the youth in the county and of the county fair, you have my Republican vote.

**L. Davis
St. Helens**

Fair Talent Show made a success by helpers

To the Editor:
The 2006 Columbia County Fair & Rodeo Talent Show was a success because of the volunteers who contributed their talent and skills. To the judges, emcees and all of my helpers, I extend a very warm thank you!
My helpers in making tallying that much easier, supporting me when I got nervous and moving equipment were:

Jeanette Sharinghousen, James Sharinghousen and Caleb Gayman. They were a huge driving force in making this event successful. Thank you so much!

This year's emcee was a Mr. James Sharinghousen. He is a very talented young man and did an amazing job announcing each participant.

The judges this year had a wide variety of performing arts backgrounds. They volunteered their time to make this year's competition possible. Thank you to Luanne Kreutzer, St. Helens Book Shop; Sally Harrison, Mayor of Vernonia; Robert Emmenger, Clatskanie High School; Tiffany Rice, Columbia County Humane Society

and Kim Kissinger, Scappoose High School.

I'd like to issue a large thank you to Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill for their generous donation in support of the Talent Show this year. It is because of the continued support of Columbia County companies and residents that we are able to have fine events like the 2006 Talent Show. I truly do appreciate all of your support.

As for the participants, everyone did a great job. The first place winner for the youth category was Lucia Morud; for the adult category was Holly Nunn. They will be traveling to participate in the 2006 Oregon State Fair.

I hope to see each and every

one of you next year and invite all your friends too!

Sincerely,

**Mary Sharinghousen
Talent Show Coordinator
Columbia County Event
Complex**

Kids, others enjoyed Jamboree fish derby

To the Editor:

This year's Jamboree Fish Derby went off well, everybody seems happy with the one hour fishing time.

We did not have as many prizes as some past years, but maybe next year we will have more sponsors.

A special thanks to the Vernonia Independent paper who has been a sponsor for years.

John Cahill donated some fishing poles, Bill Yeo auctioned them off for us and that brought in \$150 that will go towards next year's prizes. Thanks, John and Bill.

We tried something new this year, we left a pop can laying where we could keep an eye on it, hoping one of the youths would pick it up, and win a prize. Well, one of the dads picked it up, he had three boys so we had him pick one who could pick any pole and reel he liked from those we were auctioning off. You kids, keep alert for next year's good deed. It could be for good sportsmanship, helping others, picking up trash, or something else.

We had seventy-nine youths fishing this year, and had a lot of fun.

A big thanks to those that helped measure and count the fish and pick the winners; John Cahill, Bob Scoggins, Jack Lindsley, Marvin Long, DeDe Webb, Donna Webb and Dale Webb.

**Don Webb
Fish Derby Helper**

Vernonia Cares going strong in its 23rd year

To the Editor:

I was handed a *Ruralite* dated 1986 the other day. In it a bit of history about an important part of the pulse of Vernonia.

It started as a group of caring folk in 1983, putting together Christmas food baskets for struggling families. The idea

wouldn't be stopped in the minds of the group and in 1986 Marge Dunay, Dot Yadon, Mildred Elton, Evelyn Kreiger, Rose Weisenbuler, Kay Murray, Nancy Merriman, Boyd Ruby and many others built the community help organization of Vernonia Cares.

In the beginning, Vernonia Cares was housed in the back of the Police Station. When it grew, the American Legion donated the use of its old hall — where it is today. Boyd Ruby built walls, doors, shelves to provide office and pantry space. Larry Bernardi donated his wiring skills to the project. The town turned out to help. The served roughly 35 families a month. From scratch they learned as they grew into a well run business. Still all volunteer with the exception of the Director.

Then, as now, some folks are reluctant to come in for help, don't be. Vernonia Cares is here to help in a time of need and as Marge said then, it is still true today, "Don't think of it as charity, our supplies are here to be used."

Marge and her helpers then need a Big Thank You from all of us for what they started so long ago, but their hope then has not come around as yet. A quote, "Our real hope for this organization is that someday there won't be a single hungry family in Vernonia and we can go out of business because no one will need our help."

That is a dream to hang on to. Thank you, Marge, for 23 years of caring, sharing, working and supporting Vernonia.

Also, from the present group of volunteers at "Cares," thank you to the citizens of Vernonia and surrounding towns for your continued support.

**Jacqueline Ramsay
President of
Vernonia Cares**

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Although the programs for Summer Reading 2006 have ended, youngsters who have completed their reading goals may still choose their prizes at the library. (The selection of prizes is quite extensive at present.) September 1st will be the last day that

goals may be met and prizes awarded. Attendance wasn't as high as in previous years but the youngsters seemed to have a good time and did get a lot of personal attention as they participated in stories and activities related to the theme of Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales.

The Friends of the Library report that the Book Sale was very successful and wish to thank everyone who donated and bought books. Gratitude is also extended to the Edgars, who volunteered use of their building as well as a large number of books for the sale. Extra thanks go to Lisa for arranging for the removal of the leftover books.

Friday evening, August 18th at 7:00 p.m. the new version of *The Shaggy Dog* will be shown on family movie night in the library. These events are free to the public with fresh popcorn available.

Book discussion group meets Monday, September 21st at 5:30 to discuss *The Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch. These informal meetings always prove to be entertaining and new participants are always welcome.

The new cycle of Chautauqua programs will begin Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. with Jeni Foster returning. Jeni previously presented the program about Irish emigration to America. This program is entitled, *Magic Carpet Made of Steel: Songs of America's Railroads*, and is funded by the Oregon Council for the Humanities, with overnight lodging and refreshments provided by Vernonia Inn and The Friends

of the Library. These Chautauqua programs are all free to the public and this one should be especially entertaining and enlightening.

September will also be the return of the Pre-School story times on Monday mornings at 10:30. To celebrate the beginning of school, a container of school and art supplies will be on display for guessing the number of items and winning "the whole thing". Since these are school supplies, the oldest age for guessers will be twelve years of age. Dates for Chess Club, Reading Enrichment programs and Bedtime Stories will be determined and announced soon.

The family pass to the Children's Museum might be something to consider using with those younger children whose older brothers and sisters are back in school. This pass will admit three people and is made available yearly by The Friends of the Library.

I've been pulling up information regarding circulation, etc., and have found that the following books were checked out the most times during the past year: *Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt, *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey, *Over Her Dead Body* by Kate White, *Eleven on Top* by Janet Evanovich, *Mercy Falls* by William Kent Krueger, *The Twelfth Card* by Jeffery Deaver and *The Lincoln Lawyer* by Michael Connelly. Janet Evanovich topped Vernonia's July 2006 list with *Twelve Sharp* as did Phillip Margolin with *Proof Positive*.

New novels this month include *Angels Fall* by Nora Roberts, *Break No Bones* by Kathy Reichs, *Sleeping with Fear* by Kay Hooper, *In the Dark of the Night* by John Saul, *Judge & Jury* by James Patterson, *The Ruins* by Scott Smith and *Dead Wrong* by J.A. Jance.

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Ave.

Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Tues., Thur. 1 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

NOTICE

The INDEPENDENT publishes on the first and third Thursday of each month. Because there are five Thursdays in August, the next issue will not be published until September 7, 2006.

The deadline for articles and ads for the September 7 issue will be Friday, September 1, 2006.