

## Letters

### Helicopters will ruin outdoor fun at park

To the Editor:

We need to act now to save the L.L. Stewart State Park, which is about to open near the junction of Hwy 26 and Hwy 47,

from excessive helicopter noise.

Imagine driving over for a Sunday family picnic at this new full-use campground only to discover that there are helicopters (both piston and turbine) flying over the camp-

ground all day.

Imagine spending a week-end camping with the family only to discover that helicopters fly over before sunrise, all day, and after sunset.

Imagine taking a walk in the woods only to discover a sight-

seeing helicopter circling above you (one per every half-hour). Also, imagine hiking or horseback riding on the Banks/Vernonia Linear Trail only to discover that you are within 2,250 feet of a helicopter pilot training airstrip.

These are the realities facing this campground and the Linear Trail if the private use only airstrip at the junction of Highway 26 and Fisher Road is allowed to expand its' activities to include (at this time) approximately nine (9) flights a day during the week and 15 flights a day on weekends including up to 45 minutes of helicopter hovering per day.

What kind of environmental and recreational experience will this be?

In addition, this airstrip is located next to a creek, within a one hundred year flood plain and is a significant natural resource area.

How can each of us help stop this from happening? Show up at the Washington County Hearing that will be held on Thursday, September 21, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Services Building Auditorium (155 North First Ave, Hillsboro). We need to fill the auditorium to show the county that we want to enjoy our new state park.

Regards,

**K. A. Bilbao  
Manning**

### Help is available to move elsewhere

To the Editor:

In response to "Objects to shooting range near city park:" If you were so terribly upset from the noise and the fear of a shooting range so near the city park five years ago, why, oh, why would you move so near knowing the situation.

Maybe you would feel safer living in some of the neighboring cities where they use their streets as shooting ranges and live humans as targets instead of using paper targets like this civilized community.

I am sure there are enough shooters in this area that would be glad to donate their time and effort to help relocate you to one of the other areas.

**Leonard Simmons  
Vernonia**

### Join in protest to U.S. occupation of Iraq

To the Editor:

I am against the occupation of Iraq. Our country has spent untold billions to destroy, invade and occupy Iraq. Both Americans and the Iraq people have lost their lives. The wounded and psychologically damaged people, over 60,000, will need help in the years to come and the occupation continues. What is the "mission accomplished" that our President Bush wants us to win?? Looking at our country we also see another cost. Our seniors say that they don't have the funds to feed the meals on wheels folks, the program "No Child Left Behind" was mandated but not fully funded putting even more pressure on our educational system. During 2003, the infant mortality rate of the United states increased by 8 percent. Think of the pain, grief and waste of life lurking within these statistics. Clearly it is not unrelated to another statistic that over 47 million Americans have no health insurance and that number is still growing. And the billions continue to go to the Iraq occupation.

Let us stand up as citizens and tell our government that enough is enough. Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity are opposed to this war and do not want to fund it with our taxes. Join your neighbors on Thursday, September 21, the international day of peace, to say no to this war and yes to peace at 5:30 p.m. on Highway 330, St. Helens in front of the Chamber of Commerce.

In peace,

**Marjorie Kundiger  
St. Helens**

### Legal activity will stay on private land

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the letter headlined "Objects to shooting range near city park" that appeared in your September 7 issue. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, that's why this country is so great. But, this letter struck a nerve with me and I wanted to share

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## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Throughout the years I have been so grateful to library patrons—for the fact that in general they are considerate of library equipment and of other patrons as well as their care and honesty in using and returning library materials. Of course there are some items that have been kept far past due dates and a few that are lost and never returned, but it never even occurred to me that people would deliberately **steal** materials from the library—items that are available to be checked out as many times as one might wish. While doing an inventory, I discovered that during the months of April and May, 30 DVDs disappeared from the library's collection. They were not checked out but they are gone. I cannot help but hope that since all of these disappeared during a short time frame that this may have been a one time occurrence and will never happen again, but have made the decision to move the DVDs to a more visible place in the library for the time being. I doubt that the person or persons who took these items will read this article, but if they do and have regrets, just drop them in the return slot. No one will ever know your identity and library patrons will once again have use of these items. Again, my faith in the honesty and considerateness of library patrons has not been lost; this being verified the other day when two patrons who heard of this loss donated several DVDs from their own collections.

On a more pleasant note, the after-school programs will be starting in October. The Reading Enrichment activities will begin October 2nd and will be held on Mondays when school is in session. All school age youngsters are encouraged to take part in these fun-filled activities held at 3:30 p.m. Chess club will take place on Friday afternoons at 2 p.m. beginning October 6th. Anyone interested in chess is invited to attend. With so many sports taking place during these autumn months, it has been decided to start the bedtime stories in December and to limit the movies to Saturday matinees until December when Family Movie Nights will continue. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* will be shown on Saturday, October 28th at 2 p.m. Notices will be distributed through the schools regarding these activities and others that will be taking place in October and November.

The book for discussion this month is *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger with the discussion group meeting Monday, September 25th

at 5:30. All are welcome to take part in an informal discussion of this book and to suggest books for future discussion.

Weekly pre-school story-time resumed in September and will be held on Monday mornings at 10:30. It was a pleasure to see an exceptional number of youngsters and parents in attendance for the first story-time of this year and I certainly hope they and others find this an enjoyable experience and continue to attend. The theme for Monday, September 25th will be "dogs" because the last week in September is National Dog Week.

Recent acquisitions include *Blown Away* by G.M. Ford, *Crisis* by Robin Cook, *Copper River* by William Kent Krueger, *Winter's Child* by Margaret Maron, *Copycat* by Erica Spindler, *For the Love of a Dog* by Matricia McConnell, *Rise and Shine* by Anna Quindlen, *Sleight of Hand* by Kate Wilhelm, *A Stolen Season* by Steve Hamilton, *Babylon Rising* by Tim Lahaye, and *The Night Gardener* by George Pelecanos. The novels by Hamilton and Krueger are both set on Michigan's Upper Peninsula and both feature characters from their previous books (Alex McKnight and Cork O'Connor). Since being on Michigan's Upper Peninsula last fall, I guess I have a weakness for novels which feature that area, but I also have followed McKnight and O'Connor through their previous adventures and they now feel like old acquaintances. Kate Wilhelm's latest release is of course set in Oregon where she lives (Eugene) and features DA Barbara Holloway (for the 8th time) as an exciting trial concludes with closing arguments sure to delight any legal-thriller fan. Family-oriented judge, Deborah Knott is featured for the 12th time in Maron's charming, folksy, small-town world where murder always seems to intrude. Finally, poor Frank Corso, being featured for the 6th time by Ford, finds himself involved as bombs are strapped to people, banks are robbed and people are blown up. To refresh the reader, Corso is the former journalist whose career was derailed by a scandal and who has now become a successful author, but who continues to find himself in the middle of danger.

While I have not read the other new acquisitions I am looking forward to doing so and hope there are some selections here that the readers of Vernonia can't wait to read.

**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