

## Letters

### Family hurt by urgent medical expenses

To the Editor:

Living in a small town we tend to look out for one another. Presently, a local family needs our help. The Schirmeister family had an unexpected way to spend their Christmas this last year, and have endured much emotional and financial burden. When Hyrum, a husband and a father of two young ladies, went to the doctor because he wasn't feeling well, he was unexpectedly rushed to the hospital by ambulance. Once he got to the hospital he suffered further complications. Hyrum stayed in the hospital for several weeks. Though they had health insurance, it has not covered all the necessary expenses, nor will it cover an additional surgery that is needed.

An account has been set up at Wauna Federal Credit Union in Vernonia to help with all the additional medical expenses for

Hyrum Schirmeister. Your donations and support would be greatly appreciated. Plans for a can and bottle drive are in the making, please watch for further notice. Thanks,

**Camrin Eyrrick  
Vernonia**

### Senior Spelling Bee wasn't frozen out

To the Editor:

The 5th Senior Spelling Bee was held at the Senior Center recently, and despite the cold weather, there was a good turnout. Fourteen spellers competed for trophies, and the winners were: first place – Andy Nebergall; second – Jim Buxton; and third – George Gans. The fourth-place speller was also a male, Greg Kintz. How about those guys?

Thank you to the Senior Center for hosting the Bee, and to Betty and Pauline for sticking around all afternoon to help out; to past winners Tobie Finzel, Carol Sawyer, and Noni

Andersen – they presented the words and checked the answers; and to Bob Wagner for his support and computer know-how. And, as usual, Sentry Market for their generosity in providing refreshments for us.

We apologize to those who couldn't make it because of bad roads – we promise to pick a better date next time.

**Audeen Wagner  
Vernonia**

### Peace requires loss of life for all sides

To the Editor:

PEACE TAKES WORK AND SACRIFICE! Sixty-one years ago the WWII generation fought a massive war which killed nearly 250,000 Americans and 30 million people world wide. To insure that the War was not in vain, Germany and Japan were occupied by America for seven years, and American troop presence remains in these countries even today.

Immediately upon the sur-

render of Germany and Japan, the Soviets sent troops into Korea (a Japanese possession), and in retaliation, General McArthur likewise sent American troops and met the Communists at the 38th parallel. A standoff ensued until five years later when the Communist forces of the north invaded the south, and the Korean War began. However, the American resolve was firm for winning the peace that we had gained with Germany's and Japan's surrender. We forced the Communist forces back above the 38th parallel where the war ended, and to this day, American troops still have a presence in Korea to insure the peace.

We now have defeated the main force (Hussein) in the Middle East which has indirectly supported Muslim terrorism against the West since the 1972 Munich Olympics attack. Like the Soviets in 1945, AlQuida has tried to undermine the victory against Hussein and wants to reenslave the Iraqi people. As in the Korean War, the enemy has tried to create a "civil war" and hope the U.S. resolve is "soft."

America stands at a critical crossroad. In 1945 we ended

the constant "rattling of the swords" that came out of Germany and Japan. Those countries are now some of our strongest allies, and those areas are at peace. It is imperative to keep the peace and end terrorism in the Middle East to protect our American way of life. This peace could require the presence of American troops for the next 61 years also. A lasting peace in the Middle East, as with Germany, Japan and Korea, is well worth the work and sacrifice! The naysayers say it is impossible to pacify Iraq; the naysayers said the same thing in 1945 and were wrong. Now we have three very powerful allies in these nations. It is my hope that Iraq would join this group of distinguished allies!

This is no time for partisan politics and bickering. An absence of peace in the Middle East caused the World Trade Center attack. The motto of "Peace Through Strength" drove America to insure peace in Germany, Japan and Korea in the 1950's. The same is possible today.

**Fred Yauney  
Scappoose**

## Between the Bookends

By Sarah Vandehey, Library Assistant  
Banks Public Library



Join Miss Kathy for Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:15 am. Upcoming themes are:

February 7, Wacky Ways  
February 14, Hugs and Kisses  
February 21, Noise  
February 28, Dragon Tails

Want to look as hip as the librarians? Come and order your Summer Reading gear. We have t-shirts and denim shirts for sale. This year's theme is "Get a Clue at Your Library." Please place your orders by March 1st.

Want to really impress your sweetheart this year? Come check out some poetry to inspire you before Valentine's Day. We also carry a variety of cookbooks, including some on preparing chocolate treats.

Some of our newest books include:

*Magic Study* by Maria V. Snyder. The author of *Poison Study* returns with this story of intrigue and turmoil. Yelena is free, her fiercest enemy dead and she can return to her family. But her brother is out to get her and she has only a year to prove her magic talents or be put to death. Will her family accept her Ixian background and will she be able to help a lost Ixian prince regain his throne?

*Inès of My Soul* by Isabel Allende. The readers learn of Inès Suárez in this work of historical fiction. She starts life as a poor, Spanish seamstress in the 16th century, but when she goes to

find her husband in the New World, she learns he is dead. She takes up with Pedro de Valdivia, a gutsy field marshal under Pizarro. He seeks to conquer Chile despite the fierce warriors and lack of natural resources it holds. Will he succeed and will Inès and Pedro's fate pull them apart?

*Plum Lovin'* by Janet Evanovich. This best-selling author returns with a Stephanie Plum novel. Our heroine is looking for relationship expert Annie Hart—lately convicted of armed robbery and assault. Diesel knows where she is, but will tell only if Stephanie helps Hart's most difficult clients. These two better act fast before another very hot-tempered person finds her.

*Death on the Family Tree* by Patricia Sprinkle. Katherine Murray is all alone, except for her aunt, Lucy. When Lucy dies, she leaves behind an invaluable Celtic necklace and a diary written in German. These items are a mystery to Katherine and reveal a branch of her family tree previously unknown to her. It turns out she had an uncle, Carter, who was murdered after a peculiar trip to Austria over 50 years ago. The mystery continues when these relics are stolen and the suspected thief ends up murdered. Katherine works to piece together this puzzle before more of the family history is obscured.

**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, 10:15 a.m.

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

**Internet:** <[www.WILnet.wcccls.lib.or.us](http://www.WILnet.wcccls.lib.or.us)>

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## Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT is happy to accept letters for publication. To be sure your letter is published, follow the guidelines listed below.

- All letters must be signed and have a verifiable address and phone number.
- Short letters (150-200 words) will receive priority.
- Letters about public officials must refer to their public functions; personal attacks will not be published.

Submit letters in person, by mail, fax or email to the addresses/numbers listed in the masthead box on Page 2.

## Ike Says . . .

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of us old timers know it is a fact. More and more people I talk to now are starting to see this decline also and are becoming alarmed. Many of us know that the Doe seasons of the past had a role in keeping the deer population down, then there was the Hair Loss Syndrome that is slowing recruitment of new animals into the herd, but there has always been a nagging feeling that there was another piece to the puzzle.

Some blamed current forest practices, which include massive clearcuts and spraying, yet

science seems to dismiss these factors as a problem. I tend to agree, we have had massive clearcuts and spraying since the 70s, yet the deer herds back then were the highest we have seen since the Tillamook burn era. No, there was something else keeping a check on the herds and now something that is causing the deer herds to fall to very low levels. What could that be? Predators. Yes, I shook my head when I first theorized this idea, we have always had predators. Yes, cougars are increasing but are still too few to

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