

**Letters**

**Immigrants aren't the cause of low wages**

To the Editor:  
What kind of country do we want to live in? Do we want to let political boundaries determine who should be treated with respect and dignity?

Historically, newly arrived immigrants have been treated as scapegoats for whatever economic problems our country was facing. We look back and say "That was bad. We should never have blamed the Irish, the Italians, etc. for conditions that were not under their control."

But isn't that what we are do-

ing when we try to blame lack of jobs and poor pay on present day immigrants?

There are real frustrations about employment and job security. But immigrants, whether legal or illegal, are not the real cause. We should be looking at big corporations that out-sourcing jobs to areas where they can legally pay low wages. Not only do these policies take jobs away from Americans, but they also sustain the poverty in those countries, which then leads those people to try to better their lives in any way possible, including illegal immigration to the United States.

Then once they arrive here, they are still paid at under minimum wage salaries. Enforce our laws, make their employers pay a decent salary, and the immigrants will not have what some have called an unfair advantage.

Demand that the large corporations bring their jobs back to this country. The immigrants are as much a victim of this situation as everyone else. Let's not blame the victims. Instead, let's treat all people with respect and dignity, regardless of where they were born. And let's work together to correct the real employment problems in

this country.

Please join me in refusing to sign any ballot measure petition that targets immigrants. Help keep Columbia County a community we can be proud of.

**Becky Frazier  
St. Helens**

**Supporters of aliens cut their own throats**

To the Editor:

I have never seen so many Communistically indoctrinated, Frankfurt school influenced, Politically correct people who claim to have compassion, in my life, as the people who have written to different papers concerning illegal immigration.

Most of them seem to be compassionate, but they seem to want to give away someone else's substance, but "don't you dare touch mine!"

They seem to be compassionate for the illegal aliens, but have no compassion for their fellow U.S. citizens whatsoever.

They are willing to saturate out all of U.S. substance, but what they do not realize is that when that is gone, their substance will also be gone, along with that of the people they are willing to make destitute.

Our traitorous leaders are willing to sell the ground out from under their feet for a Federal Reserve one dollar note (which is worth .04 cents in relation to a 1913 dollar).

It seems to me that they need to pinch themselves and wake up. The knife is at their

throat also.

**Keith Carpenter  
Scappoose**

**Undocumented aliens don't receive services**

To the Editor:

A Columbia County citizen has made a push for a ballot measure regarding illegal immigrants in the county. The biggest of his complaints about illegal immigrants: that they are "taking" our services, leaving less for you and me. Let's understand this from the beginning: education, healthcare, and welfare are HUMAN RIGHTS not privileges of citizenship. And as you may recall from earlier Bush/Cheney campaigns, taking these "rights" away from illegal immigrants wasn't their only agenda; they want to take these rights away from all poor U.S. citizens as well.

From a federal perspective, undocumented immigrants are not eligible for any federal benefits. Period. They are not eligible for SSI, Food Stamps, Medicaid, etc. The fact that there has been no decrease in immigration since the passage of updated immigration laws in 1996, making them ineligible for these programs is evidence enough that the immigrants do not come to this country to access public benefits.

The "facts" stated in propaganda for the county proposition are unsubstantiated and are

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**Between the Bookends**

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



A few years ago the Vernonia football team played a game in North/Central Oregon (Heppner or in that area) and as the National Anthem was being played, a bird hunter in the distance was observed as he stood at attention paying tribute to

the song and what it represents. I did not witness this event but can see it clearly in my mind's eye and to me it represents the very essence of autumn—football, the National Anthem, bird-hunting in a field which has seen the last of summer's production and is being readied for winter. With the advent of another autumn in Vernonia, we are also putting gardens to sleep as we harvest the corn and pumpkins and begin the task of raking the fallen leaves. All of the library's latest magazines (*Country Home*, *Cooking for 2*, *Birds & Blooms*, *Family Circle*, *Country Woman*, etc) feature articles and pictures about autumn—home-cooked soups, decorating with pumpkins and cornstalks, making bird feed and feeders, and, of course, the lovely pictures of autumn in different parts in the United States.

In the library, lovely autumn bouquets from Julie Prohaska's garden will greet patrons until frost arrives and ends their bounty. The display table abounds with books featuring autumn stories and craft ideas. The guessing contest for the month of October will be: Guess the number of black and orange candies, with the winner receiving the container and its contents. The after school program (which resumes Monday, October 1st from 3:30—4:30) will be featuring autumn stories and crafts. All youngsters ages 6-12 are encouraged to take part in this weekly activity at the library. Until someone can be recruited to be in charge of Chess, youngsters may play board games such as Life, Sorry, Clue and Scrabble in the library on Friday afternoons.

Family movie nights will resume on a monthly basis in October with *Monsters, Inc.* being shown on the evening of Saturday, October 13th

at 7:00. Popcorn will be available and everyone is invited.

Monday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. will be the first Chautauqua program for this time frame, "The Portland Trail Blazers' Championship Season: An Oregon Story." Matt Love of Pacific City will be mixing slides, lecture, oral histories, and audio and video clips of the Blazers' memorable 1976-77 season. This event is sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities and, locally, by the library board and The Friends of the Library. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

*Montana 1948*, by Larry Watson, is the book to be discussed Monday, September 24th at 5:30. This is a novel, about a middle-class Montana family torn apart by scandal, was awarded the Milkweed National Fiction Prize, making it one of the top 100 novels of the west.

New acquisitions include *Tin Roof Blowdown* by James Lee Burke, *Drop Shot* by Harlan Coben, *Bones to Ashes* by Kathy Reichs, *Pontoon* by Garrison Keillor, *A Killer Kiss* by William Lashner, *Power Play* by Joseph Finder, *Strip Search* by William Bernhardt and *Quiet Strength* by Tony Dungy.

I'm currently reading a novel by Mike Doogan. Doogan's protagonist is Nik Kane, a 55-year-old ex-cop who's also an ex-con. Kane has been hired to find 18-year-old Faith, the daughter of one of the elders of a fundamentalist Christian community in Alaska's interior. No one knows if Faith has simply broken free from the restrictive life of the community or if she has met with foul play. I am enjoying this novel so far and will be awaiting Doogan's next Alaskan mystery.

New riddles will be also be on the library's bulletin board. Guess correctly and win a prize. **How do you fix a flat pumpkin?** (With a pumpkin patch.)

**Vernonia Public Library:** 701 Weed Ave.  
**Hours:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Tues., Thur. 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Preschool Story Time:** Mondays, 10:30 a.m., when school is in session.  
**Phone:** 503-429-1818

**Policy on Letters**

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters that include personal attacks on private citizens. Because of space limitations, preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number; all letters are subject to editing for clarity or length.

**Dickerson files to replace sheriff**

Jeff Dickerson, a veteran state police officer and St. Helens resident, has filed to run for Columbia County Sheriff in 2008.

Although the primary election will not be until May 20, 2008, Dickerson kicked off the filing season on the first possible day as "a step in the fulfillment of a lifelong goal."

Dickerson, who attended Scappoose schools and the University of Oregon, has been talking with area residents and

has formed a campaign committee with Andy Moyer, also a state trooper, as manager.

In seeking to replace retiring sheriff Phil Derby, Dickerson said he knows well the difficulties created by budget constraints. "You don't just fold up shop and give up," Dickerson said, "You give it your best shot every day, doing what you can to be professional and to provide top notch service."

The campaign web site is: dickerson4sheriff.com.