

## Letters

### Fencing help needed at Pioneer Cemetery

To the Editor:

I would like to introduce myself to the Vernonia community. My name is Colten Patton. I am a student at Vernonia High School. This Fall I will be working on completion of a renewal project at the historic Vernonia Pioneer Cemetery. I am very excited about coming to the conclusion of my years in the Scouting program. The pioneer cemetery is over a hundred years old. It also houses civil war veterans. I would like to involve the community as much as possible in my Eagle Scout Project. I will be installing a new fence around the perimeter of

the cemetery. All the fencing supplies are being provided. I will only need help in installing the new fence. There will be refreshments and a pizza party. The date of the project has yet to be decided upon. If you would like to help out please call me at 503-429-0990.

**Colten Patton  
Vernonia**

### Thankful for keeping community standards

To the Editor:

Thank the Lord I can live in a community that has a newspaper that lets me know what's happening in my town. It's standards match the "required" standards of its advertisers. I

know where to go for my needs. This letter won't be printed if it's not signed – another respected standard. I'm proud to be able to say Thank the Lord for where I live; it's a joy to share publicly that Vernonia is really a very special place – when it remembers itself.

**Isabelle McDaniel  
Vernonia**

### LOC appreciative of Sen. Johnson's work

To the Editor:

On behalf of Oregon's 242 cities, the League of Oregon Cities would like to acknowledge Senator Betsy Johnson's outstanding efforts during the

2007 legislative session. Among her many accomplishments, Sen. Johnson played a key role in addressing two issues that affected the 2.6 million Oregonians living in cities. She was instrumental in securing \$21 million of funding for municipal infrastructure projects directly impacting cities and the environment. Her work as chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Economic Development and Transportation was key to securing this funding to improve Oregonians' quality of life by helping cities with water and wastewater quality improvements.

Sen. Johnson was also an effective champion of Connect Oregon II which will inject \$100 million in lottery backed bonds to support critical marine, public transit, rail, and air related improvements.

We at the League of Oregon Cities appreciate Sen. Johnson's work on behalf of all Oregonians and her consistent and crucial work to address the special issues and challenges facing cities.

**Mike McCauley  
Executive Director  
League of Oregon Cities**

### United Way works well for all of us

To the Editor:

Why United Way?

We might just as well ask ourselves why United States? Why sports leagues? Why service clubs? or why organized effort of any kind? Why together anything? – looking at it this way brings into focus how fundamental united action is to the well-being of human society. Without united, organized efforts to care together there is only individual action, every one by themselves and for themselves. Togetherness accomplishes more and accom-

plishes things that can't be done separately. Whether it is building a great nation or a caring society, it requires united effort.

If it were not for United Way, several problems could develop. Large, already prosperous social service organizations which have the capacity to successfully raise funds, would do so and would prosper. Small organizations on the other hand, struggle for viability in spite of a great mission, real need and the involvement of many good committed local people investing themselves. Without support, small non-profits tend to fail and disappear, leaving only a limited number of large homogenous non-profits to do social services for society. This reduces consumer's choices of providers and service types and styles. Is this best? In general, "survival of the fittest", is one of the lowest expressions of humanity's values.

The human race has learned the hard way that diversity strengthens us. For example, biodiversity preserves natural resources, wildlife and foods. Diversity preserves society's well-being in other respects as well. Research shows that individual judgment or guesses are unreliable but estimates made by averaging the guesses of many people are quite accurate. In brief, this means that individually we aren't very smart or capable, but united we have genius and do amazing things.

United Way brings us together to find effective ways to care. Achieving collective wisdom while preserving diversity among service organizations answers the question, "Why United Way?"

**Deborah Cathers-Seymour  
Executive Director  
Chehalem Youth & Family Services**

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



It's pretty bad when one reads an article and finds mistakes that have been submitted by the writer (me). In last month's article comparisons were made in library statistics for circulation, service hours per week, and total library materials. The figures were correct but the

year for the initial comparison was wrong. It should have been 1992-'93, not 2002-'03. Sorry! For anyone interested in the statistics, the very biggest differences will be found prior to 1999, when we moved into the new building, through the early 2000s.

Matt Love, the scheduled presenter of the program on the 1977 Portland Trail Blazers, apologizes to Vernonia residents. He dislocated his shoulder in an accident the day before the scheduled program and was unable to drive. The presentation will be rescheduled for April. Publicity will be plentiful in the hopes that all who missed the program, and others who are interested, will be able to attend.

Recent acquisitions include *The New Year's Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini, *The Last Wild Wolves* by Ian McAllister, *Third Degree* by Greg Iles, *Home in Holly Springs* by Jan Karon, *The Heir* by Barbara Taylor Bradford, *The Race* by Richard North Patterson, *When Day Breaks* by Mary Jane Clark, *All Through the Night* by Suzanne Brockman, *Become a Better You* by Joel Osteen, and *The Chase* by Clive Cussler. Suspense, holiday and historical romance, terrorism, help for improving one's self and a portrait of the unique lives of wolves will all be found in this selection of new books.

The book chosen to be discussed this month is one of the most entertaining that I've read lately. *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name* by Heather Lende, takes place in Haines, Alaska. As both obituary writer and social columnist for

the local newspaper, Lende knows better than anyone the happenings in tiny Haines, which has no traffic light, no mail delivery and where funerals are community affairs. This is a book of touching stories about neighbors with whom Lende shares wedding celebrations, potluck dinners, tears for missing fishermen and all the joys and sorrows of family life in this town which is accessible mainly by water or air—and only when the weather is good. Discussion of this book will take place Monday, November 19 at 5:30 in the library. A copy is still available for anyone who might be interested.

*Whistling in the Dark* by Lesley Kagen is another book that I would like to recommend. This is an endearing story of Sally and Troo O'Malley and their summer full of turmoil and suspense. Set in 1959, the book remembers the days of lazy summers filled with "red rover", "green light, red light," and other playground games. Though it seemed an era of innocence, darkness in the form of a murderer and molester hides in the shadows. This novel is funny, wise, uplifting and intense.

Books have been chosen by library board members for the coming Holiday Book Adoption at the library. Ordered through St. Helens Bookshop, these items will be on display shortly after Thanksgiving and may be adopted (purchased) for the library. The cost for each will be 20% less than the regular sale price. This has been a popular way for people to give to the local library with each year becoming more successful than the previous.

Remember the after school story/activity hour on Mondays at 3:30, pre-school story time on Mondays at 10:30, and Friday after school board games at 2:30.

**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

## NOTICE

The INDEPENDENT publishes on the first and third Thursday of each month. Because there are five Thursdays in November, the next issue will be published on December 6, 2007.

The deadline for the Dec. 6 issue is Friday, Nov. 30, 2007.

## 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.