

Letters

Access to information is American tradition

To The Editor:

I like opening up a fresh copy of *The Independent* and reading the various columns provided by townfolk. I find this new wrinkle that Aldie Howard, as interim city manager, has thrown at the editorial staff, to be a disservice to the community. I like Mat Workman and Nancy Burch's input. I find both columns very informative and a plus to us commoners.

I beg the mayor and the city council to chastise Mr. Howard for his impertinence with respect to providing services warranted to the media absent of

bias. A man of his civil distinction should be above such pettifoggery.

The American concept of freedom of the press (the Fourth Estate) reflects the general social interest. Behind it lays the right of the people to have information and opinion on matters of public concern gathered and disseminated through the medium of the press FREE FROM GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OR RESTRAINT. This freedom is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Shame on Aldace Howard. One in his capacity should show allegiance to the constitution

when working as a "civil servant" or suffer the stigma of perpetrating an act of "disturbing the tranquility of the status quo", sometimes know as sedition.

Folks tell me that in times past, civil servants that debunked the law would be put in pillory and on display for public humiliation. Let me be the first person to offer my services, gratis, to build and install such a device in front of city hall. I can make the unit mobile as to allow those subjected their wishes to gad about town and ruminate at their pleasure. Those interned for compunction shall be treated to a little scorn and ridicule with a dash of sarcasm thrown in.

I proffer a standing offer to Aldie Howard to be the first to test drive this vehicle for public humiliation. Humble thyself Aldace. Admit it...you have made a mistake. Otherwise, I can only conclude that wherever Aldie goes, nothing grows.

Mark J. Akers
Vernonia

Newcomer suggests better resource use

To The Editor:

A voice from outside-in.

My family and I moved to Vernonia from Pascagoula, Mississippi this past February. We were victims of hurricane Katrina. I can relate to the grief and struggles of this community. The city of Pascagoula, with a population around two-hundred and fifty-thousand residents, completely flooded due to storm surge. The first two blocks along the beach was wiped from the map. The city and its residents recovered, with only one FEMA park of about 60 travel trailers remain to date. This was accomplished without raising taxes which would only put more burden on those who have lost so much already.

I have read each issue of *The Independent* since arriving here and see things that are not in the best interests of the citizens of this city. This is a city that already makes it difficult for low income families. The electricity rate is way out of sync with the majority of the state, not to mention the co-op requires a \$750 deposit to have services turned on. Trash service is inflated. Water prices is not too bad.

I find myself wondering how much of this city is made up of low income families and how do they afford to remain here. The city talks of tax increases to fund repair projects that they should be able to get [done with] assistance from the state

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.

and FEMA. If the sewer system
Please see page 20

Where to Find Them

US Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-OR)

1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 585
Portland OR 97232
Phone: 503-326-7525
230 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5244
Website:
<http://wyden.senate.gov>

US Senator Gordon Smith (Republican-OR)

One World Trade Center
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503-326-3386
Fax: 503-326-2900
404 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3753
Website:
<http://gsmith.senate.gov>

US Representative David Wu (Democrat-01)

620 SW Main, Suite 606
Portland OR 97205
Phone: 503-326-2901
Fax: 503-326-5066
1023 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-0855
Fax: 202-225-9497
Website: <http://house.gov/wu>

Senator Betsy Johnson (Democrat-16)

PO Box R,
Scappoose, OR 97056
Phone: 503-543-4046
Fax: 503-543-5296
900 Court St. NE, S-314
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-986-1716
Fax: 503-986-1940
E-mail:
sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us
Website:
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson>

Representative Brad Witt (Democrat-31)

21740 Lindberg Road,
Clatskanie, OR 97016
Phone: 503-728-4664
900 Court St. NE, H-277
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-986-1431
E-mail: rep.bradwitt@state.or.us
Website:
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt>

Representative Deborah Boone (Democrat-32)

PO Box 926
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
Phone: 503-717-9182
900 Court St. NE, H-375
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-986-1432
E-mail:
rep.deborahboone@state.or.us
Website:
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/boone>

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



At the suggestion of some of the regulars at the monthly book discussion, the library will be showing movies for mature audiences once a month, beginning **tonight – April 17th**. Examples of the type of movies to be shown are *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Sometimes a Great Notion*, *The Glenn Miller Story*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *Rain Man*, and *Roman Holiday*. As you can see, these movies probably would not hold the interest of youngsters so we are, for want of a better phrase, calling them "movies for mature audiences". Join us for the first of these evenings of entertainment at **7:00 p.m., April 17th** to enjoy the antics of Oscar winner Lee Marvin, co-starring with schoolmarm-turned-outlaw Jane Fonda, in *Cat Ballou*. Suggestions regarding movies to be shown, as well as the night that works best for those interested in this event, will be taken into consideration.

Weekly movies for families will become "once a month movies" in May. The scheduled night for these will become the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 p.m., with *Snow Buddies* to be shown May 10th.

Due to rescheduling of Matt Love's presentation on the 1977 Portland Trail Blazers, there will now be two Chautauqua programs taking place in May. On Monday, May 12th, Jeni K. Foster will be presenting a program entitled, *Birdsong: Birds as Metaphor in American Folk Music* and on Thursday, May 22nd, Love's program entitled, *The Portland Trail Blazers. Championship Season: An Oregon Story*, will take place. Both of these events sponsored by The Oregon Council for Humanities and The Friends of the Library will take place at 7:00 p.m.

New acquisition, *Winter Study* by Nevada Barr, finds Park Ranger Anna Pigeon on Lake Superior's Isle Royale learning about managing and understanding wolves. Shortly after Anna's

arrival, the wolf packs begin to behave in peculiar ways and this beautiful refuge becomes a place where unnatural occurrences and out-of-the-ordinary danger cause Anna to fight not only for the wolves, but for her own survival as well.

Sue Henry's latest Jessie Arnold mystery, *Degrees of Separation*, has also recently been added to the library's collection. Jessie, recovering from knee surgery, begins training for the Iditarod when she hits a bump on the trail that turns out to be a snow-shrouded dead body. With this discovery, she and Alaska state trooper Alex Jensen are once again back to chasing criminals.

Sandra Dallas's novel, *Tall Grass*, about an internment camp for Japanese-Americans during World War II (last month's book for discussion) has led to the purchase of a book entitled, *Stubborn Twig*. Written by Lauren Kessler, who directs the graduate program in literary nonfiction at the University of Oregon, this relates the story of three generations of the Yasui family. Masuo Yasui arrived in America in 1905 and, by 1941, owned, co-owned, or had an interest in close to 1000 acres of orchard land in the Hood River Valley. He and his wife had a nice house with one son helping with the farmland, another with a law degree, three more in college, and two in high school...Then came the war and the bombing of Pearl Harbor and, as the next chapter is entitled, "*paradise lost*". What a sad and frightening period this was in our history, yet I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn more about it through both fictionalized and true accounts.

Timely additions to the collection, made possible by The Friends of the Library, are several books on home improvement, remodeling, building porches, and landscaping. Be sure to check these out as you are repairing, remodeling, and replanting following the flood.

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