

## Letters

### Protect yourself from the bully at City Hall

To The Editor:

Tape recorder required: Anytime a person enters Vernonia city hall and has to deal with Aldie Howard, you need to car-

ry a tape recorder with you for protection to save your integrity. Howard will do whatever it takes to ruin your integrity if you don't agree with him or roll over for him. He will intimidate you by using our police or former employees of the city or even

threaten you into Justice Court with false billings just to say he won. Anytime a city employee will insult, bully and intimidate one of the finest of our senior females just so he can show his power over her, it's past time for him to go. Mayor Harrison,

you should be ashamed of yourself for allowing this to happen. I know you are aware of this happening. It's time for you to stop protecting Howard. If the council is aware of what is going on, shame on you also.

I have been contacted by several fine citizens since I opened the door on Howard and all have expressed their fear of being slandered or threatened by this bully if they disagree with him or report him to city hall.

Better luck next time, Howard!!!

Your Honorable Citizen,  
**Leonard Simmons**  
Vernonia

### Mindful clarity needed

To The Editor:

An uncluttered mind: Young people and children have amazed me with their clarity of thought. Naive I suppose, but then bigotry is more so.

The brain is like a hard drive, overload it and it does not function well.

Be careful what you save,  
**Eddie Peters**  
Vernonia

## Between the Bookends

By Susan Cackler, Library Assistant  
Banks Public Library



The school year is winding down and that means it's time to sign up for the summer reading program at the library. All of the 14 libraries in the Washington County cooperative will be offering fun, free activities to educate and entertain kids. Prizes are also available for children who sign up and meet their reading goals.

Summer reading events will be held at the Banks Public Library on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. starting June 19 and continuing through July, except for July 3. Check out all of the events at [wccls.org](http://wccls.org).

Each child should sign up at only one Washington County Library, but may attend events at any library. Sign-ups began June 2 and continue until July 15. August 1 is the first day that reading records can be turned in and they must be turned in by August 30. Summer reading is open to pre-readers on up through teen-agers.

Join us for Preschool Story Time, Wednesdays at 10:15 am. This event is geared toward 3-6 year olds, but younger siblings are welcome. Miss Cathy will read stories about "Daddy-o" on June 11. The themes for the rest of the month haven't been decided yet. Story Time will continue through July, but will not be held during August.

There will be no Friends of the Banks Public Library craft night in July or August.

The Friends of the Banks Public Library can always use your support. You can make a tax deductible donation, become a member, volunteer, or bring your recycling to Swatco on the **second Saturday** of each month. Money that the Friends raise helps the library purchase Cultural Passes, upgrade equipment and purchase books and movies.

#### On the Shelf:

*Homecoming*, by Bernhard Schlink. In this first novel since the best-selling *The Reader*, this is the story of one man's odyssey and another man's pursuit. Peter Debauer grew up with his mother and scant memories of his father, who died in World War II. As an adult, Peter embarks upon a search for the truth of his mother's history and the possibility of finding his missing father after all these years. He searches across Europe to the U.S. and back, finding clues to his father through a long chain of disguises. He ends up in New York City, struggling to hold on to the woman he loves and find the truth behind his family history.

*Wit's End*, by Karen Joy Fowler. In this novel set in Santa Cruz, Rima Lanisell arrives at her godmother's old Victorian mansion, mourning the recent loss of her father. She soon finds herself immersed in a household of eccentrics, including two quirky dog walkers, a stalker and her godmother, a secretive and feisty bestselling mystery writer, who knew Rima's father very well. Rima sets out to find out what that relationship really was. This book is both a jaunt into the past and firmly rooted in the present, as it explores the effects of an internet fan base on a reclusive author. The characters are oddball and endearing and the circuitous story is sure to entertain.

*The Host*, by Stephanie Meyer. Meyer steps away from her Twilight series for teens with this, her first novel for adults. Melanie Snyder has been taken over by an unseen enemy that is invading the world, but she won't give up and fade away. Soon, her host is overwhelmed by the human's emotions and memories and an unlikely alliance forms as host and hostage search for the man Melanie loves.

*Names My Sisters Call Me* by Megan Crane. This novel, by the author of *Frenemies*, features three sisters who are as different as can be. Norah, the oldest is a type A who hasn't forgiven the middle sister Raine for ruining her wedding day six years ago. Raine is a wild-child hippie chick who ran off to California. The only thing the two have in common is their ability to drive Courtney, their youngest sister, crazy. Courtney decides it's time for a truce when she is about to be married. But reuniting isn't easy and neither is overcoming first loves. Courtney finds herself examining all the choices in her life and realizing she needs her sisters more than ever.

*Chasing Harry Winston* by Lauren Weisberger. From the author of the *Devil Wears Prada*, this novel is the story of three best friends who vow to change their entire lives, fast. Nearing 30, the three have been friends for nearly a decade. But now they're looking to the future and not sure they like what they see. They're all single for different reasons and two of them vow to make some serious changes. They give themselves one year to pull it off and see what they can accomplish.

**Banks Public Library:** 111 Market Street.  
**Hours:** Mon., Fri., Sat., 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.;  
**Preschool Story Time:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.  
There will be no Story Time in August.  
**Phone:** (503) 324-1382 for information  
**Internet:** [www.WILInet.wccls.lib.or.us](http://www.WILInet.wccls.lib.or.us)  
Browse library resources, reserve or renew materials online. *Call for information.*

### 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.

### Where to Find Them

#### US Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-OR)

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*Love and business and family and religion and art and patriotism are nothing but shadows of words when a man's starving.*

— O Henry (William Sydney Porter)