

## Letters

### Firefighters pancake feed a huge success

To The Editor:

Our pancake feed, held May 18, was a huge success thanks to the Oregon Trail Rally, local businesses, and a handful of community members. Those who attended enjoyed homemade biscuits and gravy, pancakes, eggs and ham; all put together by our volunteer firefighters and families. Firefighter Luke Ellis headed up this event and did a tremendous job preparing, organizing and cooking from scratch. We received unbelievable amounts of support and donations from those who were able to come enjoy breakfast with us!

We were able to purchase a stair chair, which is a big necessity for our community now that houses are being lifted in the air. We were already able to put

it to use on a call, where the volunteer firefighters were very impressed by how easy and safe it was to get a patient down a lengthy set of stairs.

We would like to thank Sentry and Black Bear Coffee for their bountiful food and drink donations. To Vernonia Hardware and Supply, Vernonia Realty, Mike Pihl Logging and Wauna FCU; thank you for your big-hearted donations! Without your support we wouldn't be able to do what we do, thank you!

We look forward to seeing all of you and more at our next event!

With gratitude,

**Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters**

### Material wanted for Museum flood video

To The Editor:

I am putting together a video of the 2007 flood as a fundraiser for the Vernonia Pioneer Museum. If you have some footage or even pictures you would share with me, it would be greatly appreciated.

You can call me at 429-4062 or email blueshoes88@msn.com.

**Donna Webb  
Vernonia**

### Ode to totalitarian, despotic leaders

To The Editor:

Small time despotic bureaucrats and other bottom feeders Dream of glory days when they become despotic leaders.

Most bureaucrats serve purposes of value beyond doubt but totalitarian donkeys

we can surely do without

A bane to common citizens these ego driven mortals with their fascist leaning actions

they're, at best, posterial portals.

**R.D. Stevens  
Vernonia**

### Bridges, like houses, should be raised

To The Editor:

Open Letter to Columbia County Commissioners:

Hello, Last December's flood surely was a trying experience for everyone involved and it is good that the commissioners and government representatives are concerned in establishing policies that will be helpful in future floods. We may have a 100 or 500 year flood every year, especially with the unpredictable weather changes we are seeing.

I have learned that the com-

missioners of Columbia County are considering passing an ordinance that requires the property owners whose dwellings have been damaged to raise up their structures or move.

If the dwelling structures that have existed for a very long time are going to be required to be modified would it not be helpful to look into what can be done to minimize water damage to them in the future?

The bridges over the river seem to work like a dam when the water rises, specifically the bridges that are owned by large corporations. These bridges are not owned or maintained by the county or the state. Some of them have been around for decades and are exempt from any regulation. If the dwellings that have been around for a long time are not 'grandfathered in' and are going to be required to be modified why are these private bridges exempt?

**Please see page 22**

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



**"Catch the Reading Bug"** at the Vernonia Public Library this summer! Youngsters ages 3 and older, and their parents, are invited to take part in the fun-filled schedule of reading related events on Tuesdays beginning June 24th at 10:30

a.m. Prizes for completion of reading goals will be awarded, drawings will be held, and weekly prizes for participation will also be awarded. In addition to the morning activities, two special presentations will be held. Mary of Hart's Reptile World will be here July 1st at 7:00 p.m. with reptiles and bugs. On July 8, also at 7:00 p.m., Steve Taylor, the magical ventriloquist, will be back with Rudy and a "Catch the Reading Bug Magical Adventure!" Complete schedules and registration forms are available in the library.

The movie for mature audiences this month will be *A League of Their Own*, to be shown at 7:00 p.m., Thursday June 26th. In another event this month, author George Byron Wright will be here Monday, June 30th to discuss his writing and specifically his novel, *Roseburg 1959*. The public is encouraged to attend these entertaining events.

New acquisitions include *The Other* by David Guterson, *The Broken Window* by Jeffery Deaver, *Nothing to Lose* by Lee Child, *Another Man's Moccasins* by Craig Johnson, *Odd Hours* by Dean Koontz, *The Reapers* by John Connolly, *Black Out* by Lisa Unger, and *Blood Trail* by C. J. Box.

Most of these new books were written by "well-known, established, best-seller" authors

that library patrons request time after time, but there are many not so famous authors whose books usually appear only in paperback format and are often overlooked. I would encourage patrons to watch for works by Sandra Kring, especially one entitled, *Carry Me Home*. Earnestly narrated by brain-damaged 16-year-old "Earwig" Gunderman, this novel tells the story of a brother's love as his family and community in rural Wisconsin are irrevocably altered by the effect of World War II. Oregon author Cathy Lamb (*Julia's Chocolates* and *The Last Time I Was Me*) is another author I would like to recommend. Lamb's novels are set in Oregon and might be called "chick lit", but the characters are colorful, eccentric, and so funny that at times I found myself laughing out loud. *Some Things That Stay* by Sarah Willis, *The Memory of Water* by Karen White, and *As Hot as it Was You Ought to Thank Me* by Nanci Kincaid are other novels by "not so famous authors" to check out.

I've been reminded to mention the ever-growing selection of books on tape. The library is constantly adding to its collection of books in CD format to supplement (and eventually replace) those on audio cassette. Some of the newest of these are *God of Animals* by Aryn Kyle, *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult, *The Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs, and *The Choice* by Nicholas Sparks.

All of the books from The Libri Foundation have now been catalogued and are available to be checked out.

**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.

### Where to Find Them

**U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-OR)**  
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Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>

**U.S. Senator Gordon Smith (Republican-OR)**  
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**U.S. Representative David Wu (Democrat-01)**  
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**Senator Betsy Johnson (Democrat-16)**  
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