

Letters

July 4th celebration was great all-around

To The Editor:

Wow! What a great 4th of July.

First on the list of events for the day was the 1st Friday, which seemed to be well attended.

A much bigger parade than in the past. Thanks to all of you who participated and made it a success.

The best was the last of the day. The most grand fireworks we have ever had. The grand finale shook the ground, it was spectacular!

Thanks to our very own pyrotechnician Tom Ramsey, with the help from volunteer fire per-

sonnel for putting on such a great show.

I would also like to thank Western Fire Works, for providing many extra fireworks.

I sincerely hope that this tradition carries on.

**DeLoris Webb
Vernonia Pride**

Writer questions Sen. Johnson's ethics

To The Editor:

The ongoing issues regarding State Senator Betsy Johnson is not whether you are a friend of hers or a friend of County Commissioner Joe's, the issue here is corruption, political favors, threats etc. something that Betsy Johnson is

very familiar with. The very idea that we should excuse Betsy of her somewhat less than honorable actions are irresponsible on all our parts as constituents, as Democrats, Republicans, Independents or what ever political affiliation you are. The fact that some people ignore her underhandedness and corrupt actions reflects the true moral character of those individuals who have become Betsy's champions no matter what she has done. It is sad that these people should abandon their virtues because Betsy passes out a \$500-\$1,000.00 bill every once in awhile. Betsy does not have the public's welfare in mind when she does her dirty dealings she has Betsy's busi-

ness in sight, whether it is money or her ego. I have no personal vendetta against Senator Johnson, and I would feel the same about any elected official who has done what Senator Johnson has done. All I want is a honest and up front state senator handling the Districts business and Oregon's business, not a senator who is making

headlines for bullying people, or one with ethic charges, or questionable business practices for rich friends. I want a senator who is making headlines for things that will benefit the people of Oregon, such as the environment, health care, union jobs, and schools.

**Tammy Maygra
Deer Island**

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



One thing that has really impressed me lately is the number of young people who are seeking summer employment and have made this known by placing flyers in the library. Be sure and look on the bulletin board in the hallway and give some support to the youth of the community by hiring them to baby sit, walk dogs, do yard work, wash cars, etc.

Those parents who have attended Summer Reading activities with their youngsters will have noticed that Linda Johnston, Camrin Eyrrick, and Kelli Martinez have done a wonderful job in preparing and implementing the weekly programs. The programs will continue through July and will culminate with an entry of "buggy" readers in the Jamboree Parade.

With the June meeting of the library board, another valuable board member ended his second four-year term. Myron Lane's calm, organized, reasonable approach to library matters has been vital in making informed decisions. Since the library's automated program was instigated, Myron has entered new materials on an almost weekly basis. He has been the motivating influence in starting and continuing the monthly book discussion group. He has been instrumental in choosing Chautauqua programs that are of interest to the community and has made all of the required introductions prior to the programs. Myron has been responsible for all of the colorful flyers publicizing authors and Chautauqua programs and he even introduced a new subject word to our library—psychobabble. A new book/or books will be added to the library's collection in recognition of Myron's valuable service as a library board member.

New acquisitions for adults include *When You Are Engulfed in Flames* by David Sedaris, *Chas-*

ing Darkness by Robert Crais, *Death Angel* by Linda Howard, *Say Goodbye* by Lisa Gardner and *Killer View* by Ridley Pearson. New titles for the young adult reader include *Football Hero*, *Six Innings*, *Saturday Night Dirt*, *Generation Dead*, and *Suck Up*. Watching *A League of Their Own* on movie night inspired the purchase of Susan Johnson's history of the Girls' Professional Baseball League which lasted from 1943-1954 titled, *When Women Played Hardball*.

My recommended book of the month is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. Enzo, the narrator, is a dog who wants nothing more than to be a man. Life is good for Enzo and his family, consisting of race-car driver Denny, Denny's wife Eve, and daughter Zoe, until Eve develops cancer. This book is sad and funny and is filled with love, devotion and hopefulness, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Remember that the library subscribes to *The Chronicle* which is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Published in St. Helens, this paper contains many articles of interest to residents of our area including information on the revision of county flood overlay zones, the upcoming Columbia County Fair, 13 Nights on the River, and Scappoose's Friday evening concerts. Be sure and take note that many of the articles are written by April Bamburg, a graduate of Vernonia High School.

Watch for the Jamboree Book Sale sponsored by The Friends of the Library, to be held Friday, August 1 from 2-7:00 p.m., and Saturday, August 2 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., at the old city hall/library building. There will be many items priced very reasonably, with all proceeds being used to supplement library materials and programs.

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

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

2338 Rayburn 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>

Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are... Texas oil millionaires and an occasional politician or business man from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid.

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower, November 8, 1954