

Letters

Health inspection of Market not warranted

To The Editor:

The local Health Inspector, in search of violations after a phoned-in tip, recently inspected the Friday night Open Air Market. Perhaps there were some violations, perhaps not. I don't know; I wasn't there. Baked goods, frequently sold at the venue and labeled as being from non-certified kitchens, were one possible concern. Apparently, no illnesses had been reported.

We live in a world where millions of people are homeless due to war and natural disasters. Countless people starve to death each day. Our nation is at war in two countries on the other side of the world. Our country's economy is sliding deeper into recession. In our own county, over sixty percent of the population are living at the lower economic levels, just

making it day-to-day. Vernonia has lost whole families to other, more stable communities due to the after-effects of the flood among other problems.

Where is the sense of proportion here? Next time we, as citizens of this community, see a problem, why not come together with possible solutions instead of complaining, destroying, or demanding that our already over-taxed, over-burdened, over-worked bureaucracies "just fix it!" as if we, ourselves, were uninvolved bystanders in our own lives?

A local enterprise had brought much needed income to local inhabitants. Downtown businesses certainly benefited, especially the Buckhorn and the Black Bear among others.

The questions we should all be asking ourselves are: Do my actions benefit the community? Am I contributing to the greater good? If we cannot honestly, in good conscience answer YES

to these questions before we act, perhaps we should hold our peace until we can.

Sincerely,

**Erika Paleck
Vernonia**

Don't put U.S. job on Deputies' shoulders

To The Editor:

Although I've never met Wayne Mayo, it seems he has a bone to pick with me.

While supporting his ballot measures at a recent forum, Mayo said that anyone who doesn't support 5-190 & 5-191 is a "bad American". Since I find these measures of his pointless and potentially harmful to our county, I guess he means me.

Just for the record, I'm a law-abiding, tax-paying resident of Columbia County. I served for a couple of decades in the military of our country. I've been working, pretty much continuously, since I was in my teens. I

volunteer, when I can, in the community. My family's been in the United States for over two hundred years – though there's some question about whether they all came here legally. And I'm not used to being referred to as a Bad American.

I've read a whole bunch of emotional arguments, both for and against these measures, but my main objections to them are pretty down-to-earth:

Money. Or lack of it. These bills smack of the same sort of thinking that gets folk up to their necks in credit card debt. We aren't a rich county to start with, but these bills make no provision for raising the funds necessary to enact them or carry them out. Instead, they are to be bankrolled by the county's general fund – is there going to be some huge surplus there that the rest of us are unaware of? The reports I've read in the paper seem to indicate the op-

posite...

Redundancy. There are already several state and Federal laws that address the same issues that Mayo's bills do. His supporters maintain that the laws aren't being enforced. So the answer is... MORE laws? If Mayo had put half the effort into calling for enforcement of existing laws that he has into drumming up support for these bills, he might have had some real success by now. Hell, I probably would have supported him. But then, I guess he wouldn't have gotten all this publicity

Priorities. I can't bring myself to believe that this is the most pressing criminal issue facing Columbia County. When I read the papers, I read about assaults, burglaries, drunk drivers, and tweakers stealing spools of copper wire. These are the sorts of crimes I'd like to

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



The Friends of the Library had a wonderfully successful book sale during Jamboree weekend. Several energetic ladies worked many, many hours to unpack, organize and sell the books. Many favorable comments were heard about the quality of

the books and the way they were organized and displayed. People buying books must be some of the nicest in the world. They are so happy to find books to add to their collections at reasonable prices while supporting worthwhile causes such as Friends of the Library. Thank you all so much for making this such a fabulous success.

The summer reading parade entry was fun, well-received and garnered a 1st place in the children's division. Bill Sword deserves a huge thank you for letting his wagon become a "buggy float" and for pulling it with his trusty tractor. For the youngsters who participate in the parade, having candy to throw is great fun and Randy Parrow of Sentry once again made this possible. Thank you, Randy.

All in all, the summer programs were a big success and youngsters have until September 1st to complete their reading goals and turn them in at the library to receive their prizes.

With only a couple of weeks until school starts, it's still vacation time for many families. To keep the vacationing spirit alive you might want to watch *RV* starring Robin Williams as he drags his reluctant family on a road trip in an attempt for them to spend quality time together.

(This movie might make you glad you are home.) Those who camp might enjoy the pictures and articles about travel trailers of the past in the current issue of *Reminisce*, entitled "On the Road Again" and *The Long, Long Trailer* with Lucille Ball has some of the funniest scenes imaginable.

New books include *Fractured* by Karin Slaughter, *It Only Takes a Moment* by Mary Jane Clark, *Breaking Dawn* by Stephanie Meyer, *Damage Control* by J. A. Jance, *Time is a River* by Mary Alice Monroe and *Off Season* by Anne Rivers Siddons. I'm currently reading *The Condition* by Jennifer Haigh. This novel is of particular interest to me because Gwen, one of the main characters, was born with the same genetic disorder (Turner's Syndrome) as was one of our children, and this is the only time I've ever seen this particular condition mentioned except in medical articles.

With football season starting soon, the family movie this month will be *Air Bud*, *Golden Receiver* to be shown at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19th. The adult movie for August will be *Driving Miss Daisy* to be shown Thursday the 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Book discussion will take place Monday, August 25th at 5:30 p.m. with Beryl Markham's memoir, *West With the Night*, being the featured book.

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.

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