

Letters

Dog Parade brought smiles and laughter

To the Editor:

Thank you to all who made the 1st annual Dog Parade such a success! The smiles and laughter on the faces of those “parading” and those watching were great! All the dogs were very well behaved and, judging from the wagging tails, they had a great time, too! It was such fun I can’t wait until the next one!

A special thanks to those who made it possible. Those who donated prizes: Creatures Pet Store, Pet Smart, Midway Vet, Valley Vet, Rock Creek Kennels, the First Friday Group, Chailey’s Choice and US Bank. The judges: Rebecca McGaugh, Shirlee Daughtry and Isabelle McDaniel. Great job! Thank you, Erika and Kate, for boosting my spirits when they were sagging and a spe-

cial thank you to those who participated!

Carol Davis
Vernonia

Recycle electronics to help our students

To The Editor:

Dear Neighbor: Washington Grade School is conducting a recycling fundraiser. There’s nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to protect the environment by donating your used cell phones, inkjets, laptop /notebook computers, iPods, digital cameras, & digital video cameras. Your used items may be tax deductible and will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and sold. 100% of the proceeds will help fund school supplies and P.E. equipment at our school.

We greatly appreciate your support!

George Spaulding
Washington Grade School

K-5 P.E. Teacher Impressed by boy’s excellent work ethic

To The Editor:

Let me tell you about a boy named Alex.

I first met Alex at the kids’ fishing derby during Jamboree. As we were setting up he approached several of us and asked if we had some work he could do. We told him that we did not have any work...sorry.

My husband, Don, and I were at the information booth on Sunday of Jamboree and Donna Webb came by. While we were visiting I noticed this boy across the street going thru the garbage can. I said to Donna, “Isn’t that the same boy that was at the fishing derby looking for work?” Donna replied, “He approached me looking for a job. At first I couldn’t think of anything for him to do and then I told him he could have all the

cans in the garbage bins.” She gave him a garbage sack and gloves and made arrangements at the Lions booth for him to leave his cans there until the end of the day. At the end of the day he had too many cans to take home on his bike, so Donna had her daughter, Erin, come down and follow him on his bike to his house with all the cans in her car for him.

Several days later, as I was leaving Park Drive, Alex was waiting to cross the street and he motioned for me to go. I rolled down my window and said, “Aren’t you the boy that was collecting cans at Jamboree?” He replied that he was. I then ask him if he made a lot of money. He said, “I made \$40.60. It was enough to buy my BB gun.” I replied, “That’s great, good job.”

Donna has since given him more cans and has seen him at

the Country Market offering to help people bring their purchases to their cars. She has also seen him working outside one of the businesses.

Donna told him she had some cans he could have and he asked, “Where do you live because I can’t go past the green bridge.” He planned to ride his bike to get them, but she said there were too many for him to carry on his bike. After calling his parents to see if she could give him a ride they proceeded to her house for the cans.

I’m sure many of you know this young boy as you have probably been approached for a job. He is not looking for a hand out, he wants to work.

We have been quite impressed by this 10-year-old boy and since I live on this side of the green bridge I’m sure he will be getting my cans from

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



The community has recently lost one of its most prolific readers who probably checked out and read more library books than any other patron. Linda Webster usually checked out at least five books on each visit to the library and read and returned them within the week. Linda read books from all genres but was especially fond of mysteries. It was a challenge (one that librarians love) to provide reading material that she hadn’t read. If Linda did not like a book, she didn’t hesitate to make it known and more often than not, other patrons would not like that book either. This spunky lady will be missed by her family and friends, but she will be remembered in the community as donations have been made to the library in her memory. Nameplates reflecting books donated in Linda’s memory have been made and will shortly be found in a variety of new books.

New acquisitions currently include *Cold Case* by Kate Wilhelm, *Sweetheart* by Chelsea Cain, *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld, *In Defense of Food* by Michael Pollan, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Shaffer and Barrows, *Tribute* by Nora Roberts, and *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry.

My recommendation for the month is *The Perfect Game* by W. William Winokur. This is based on the amazing true story of the Industrial Little League of Monterrey, Mexico, who, against all odds, won the Little League World Series in 1957. These youngsters were a ragtag band of

street urchins who had played baseball for only a few months before forming an organized team and realizing their dream to play just one “real game” in the United States. With each boy wearing his uniform and carrying only a change of underwear in a paper bag, they dragged their reluctant coach and priest with them as they crossed the Rio Grande and walked the last ten miles to the field in McAllen, Texas. Many of these boys had never slept in a bed, ridden in a car or bus; much less a plane, and they had never played on a regular field, especially one with lights. They were (on average) 35-pounds lighter and 6-inches shorter than their American counterparts and did not speak English. They insisted on being blessed before every game and were granted the right to wear their own uniforms instead of the official ones in the finals because the official ones were so big the youngsters couldn’t lift their arms or move their legs. This is a wonderful, inspirational story of achieving one’s dreams against all circumstances.

Pre-school story time is once again taking place on Monday mornings at 10:30. Family movie night will be Saturday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. with the original version of *The Parent Trap* being shown. Adult movie night has been changed from September 18th to **Tuesday, September 23rd** to avoid conflict with the candidates’ forum. Movie to be shown at 7:00 p.m. that evening will be *Grumpy Old Men*.

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) 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	Senator Betsy Johnson (Democrat-16) PO Box R, Scappoose, OR 97056 Phone: 503-543-4046 900 Court St. NE, S-314 Salem, OR 97301 Phone: 503-986-1716 E-mail: sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us Website: http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson
U.S. 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	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
U.S. 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	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