

Letters

From page 3

Our county and state officials are advocating for the shipment of coal through our county, both by rail and by barge. The St. Helens Port Commission, led by Robert Keyser, initiated and signed two agreements with Australia-owned energy companies with nothing but a sham of a public meeting just minutes before the agreements were signed. The port was able to "get around" the Oregon public meetings laws by having the companies meet with port members individually in order to avoid a quorum. If that isn't backroom politics, I don't know what is.

Commissioner Tony Hyde said he would approve the shipment of coal through our county if five mayors would give him the go ahead on this. Five mayors should not be running our county and making these huge decisions for thousands of county residents. Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge, and his city council are the only public officials who have refused to sign an agreement for these coal shipments. I applaud them for doing so.

I sincerely hope other political "leaders" will begin to realize that shipping our natural resources to other nations is the beginning of the United States becoming a third-world country.

The few permanent jobs the coal shipments would create are not worth the damage to our river, our county and our people.

**Nancy Whitney
St. Helens**

Community gardens growing in interest

To the Editor:

The Columbia Health Coalition would like to thank representatives from OSU Extension, Christ Episcopal Church, Snoopeeland, and the Vernonia Community Garden for presenting at our "Community Gardens in Action" event June 2nd. Community and school gardens are of growing interest in our county and have the potential to improve nutrition, education, outdoor involvement, the environment, and participant empowerment.

In addition to the rise in community and school garden initiatives, other policy and programmatic changes within our county include an increase in nutrition education due to efforts by the Columbia Pacific Food Bank and the Columbia County OSU Extension Office, the installation of an asphalt walking trail at Clatskanie Elementary School to increase physical activity for students and the community, and nu-

merous policy changes in Vernonia focusing on wellness, physical activity, and tobacco use on school grounds.

Columbia County is a community that strives for multifaceted health improvements. Though each community within the county focuses on health topics unique to their demographic, the collaboration of a wide variety of groups county-wide has strongly influenced each of the positive health changes and initiatives. With thanks to the diligent community agencies and individuals involved, Columbia County has many health achievements to be proud of.

For information on the Columbia Health Coalition, or to join, call Ashley Swanson at 503-397-4651 ext. 2007.

Sincerely,

**Nicole Grondin
Columbia Health
Coalition Member**

D-Day, 1944, still one of greatest efforts

To the Editor:

D-Day, June 6, 1944: Survivors of that day, probably one of if not the greatest military endeavor ever tried, are still among us. Americans, Canadians, Brits, New Zealanders, and Australians collectively held their breath all day huddled around radios for reports on the invasion.

The defenses along the

shore were formidable. The movie, "Saving Private Ryan" gives the viewer a sense of the horror that awaited Allied troops.

No matter what side you take regarding FDR's Presidency, the courage to execute D-Day 1944 stands as one of the greatest calls an American President has ever made. Owing the outcome, win or lose, Roosevelt had the wisdom and humility to lead the country in a 527 word prayer starting with this sentence.

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity."

Miraculously, the tenacity and grit of the invading Allied Forces gained purchase on those beaches that morning culminating, ultimately, in the overthrow of an able and aggressive evil.

To our parents, our uncles and aunts, our Grandparents: Because you saw it through, we're here. The lights are still on. Thank you.

**Wayne Mayo
Scappoose**

Jr. Salmon Auction a tremendous success

To the Editor:

The 4th Annual Junior Salmon Auction was a tremendous success and, if you were there, you know how exciting it was for everyone involved.

We auctioned 50 pieces of art, including 42 Jr. Salmon and 8 pieces of furniture, and raised more than \$2500! One of the highlights of the evening was a bid of \$500 for one salmon art work. It was so gratifying to see the students appreciate and be appreciated by members of the community and the art work was even better than in previous years. This was our best year ever. As one community member noted, "This is like going to State for the art students!" and it was, it was a real victory for these kids.

So if you know anyone that took high school art this semester, please congratulate them for making great art, donating it, and helping to pay it forward for future art students. All proceeds benefit the VHS art department and Hands-On-

Art activities in Vernonia. Thank you to everyone that helped make this happen. It truly takes a village to keep the arts alive in schools these days.

Thanks so much!

**Linda Allen
Art Teacher
Vernonia School District**

Stamp Out Hunger is greatly appreciated

To the Editor:

Letter Carriers, Thank you for running the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 12, 2012. Thanks to your efforts and the generosity of the Vernonia people, 471 pounds of food was delivered to this food bank. Thank you so very much for your organization, work and generosity to make this event happen. Special thanks for Peter O'Leary for taking the lead for this project and to all the letter carriers for picking up the donations.

Currently, Vernonia Cares Food Bank assists an average of 400 people per month with three days worth of emergency groceries. We can only do this through generous donations like the food the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive brought in.

Gratefully,

**Sandy Welch
Executive Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank**

Banks July 4 activities set



Banks will celebrate the 4th of July with the traditional fireworks display at Sunset Speedway starting at 10:00 p.m. Many people picnic at Banks Sunset Park beforehand and stay to enjoy the fireworks.

Sunset Speedway racing will begin at 5:00 p.m. Action that night will include the Firecracker 100 – DAA Extreme Late Models vs. Dirt Car Super Late Models, and 4-cylinder bump-to-pass.

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