

On the Shelves: What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

By Jennifer Moloney

Each summer the Vernonia Public Library puts together stories, crafts, activities, performers, and events to create a Youth Summer Reading Program. Funding for these activities can be a challenge. I am happy to say that the Vernonia Public Library has received a \$1,000.00 grant to improve public library services to children. The "Ready to Read Grant" funds will be used to support the 2013 Youth Summer Reading Program.

The "Ready to Read Grant" was established by the State Legislature in 1993 to assist local libraries in helping to achieve the Oregon Benchmarks for

childhood learning and development. This annual grant, funded by the General Fund of the State of Oregon, is administered by the State Library.

The impact of the "Ready to Read Grant" program is measured annually by the percentage of libraries adopting "best practices" in their services to children. The State Library has identified three best practices in youth services at public libraries: summer reading programs, training for parents and childcare providers in research-based early literacy curriculums, and outreach to children and teens who face barriers getting to the library.

"We are at a pivotal moment in Oregon history as we move forward in implementing the Governor's

education agenda" said State Librarian Mary Kay Dahlgreen. "The 'Ready to Read Grant' program administered by the Oregon State Library has provided funding for 20 years so local libraries can work with other organizations to help every Oregon child be ready to start school and retain their reading skills over the summer. Using their 'Ready to Read Grant' funds, public libraries in Oregon will continue their good work of providing early literacy opportunities and summer reading programs for Oregon's children."

Preparations for the summer program have begun. If you are interested in helping with this year's program please let us know.

Happy New Year!

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

I really liked your article on Gun Control. You certainly hit on everything.

As you know, I have guns and use them for elk hunting and target practice. I even have an UZI I bought from Fred Oviatt many years ago. It's fun taking it out in the woods to target practice. I've taught my kids to shoot when they were younger. My oldest daughter is just taking her concealed weapons permit class for Oregon. She

feels that with five kids, she wants to be prepared for anything that comes along.

Unfortunately, as you say, any type of change in any of the areas you mentioned will take years to make any difference. Changes in all the areas are necessary but, until they start making a difference, I am in favor of people having the right to carry concealed weapons and protect themselves and the environment they are in.

If there was just one armed

teacher in that school, it MAY had made a difference. No one will ever know for sure though.

I respect your right to not own a gun, but I personally would feel unsafe without some type of gun available if I had to protect myself. If I was in a mall the same time a shooter walked in, even though I carry a pistol which is no match for an AR15, I would go down emptying my gun against him. I would be willing to give my own life that there would be a chance that I saved someone or many.

Thanks again Scott for the excellent editorial.

Gordon Smith
Banks, OR

Christmas holiday grocery box project. Thanks to your donations, Vernonia Cares Food Bank was able to provide 204 Christmas grocery boxes which helped 607 Vernonia area residents have a turkey dinner with all the trimmings! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sandy Welch, Exec Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank

To the Editor,

Thank you to the woman who purchased \$100 in gift cards from Subway and anonymously donated them to the Lady Loggers basketball team.

Vernonia Subway and the VHS Lady Loggers basketball team

Dear donors,

Thank you for your support of the

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