

Like Deer, We Run *continued from front page*

What candle, I would wonder, can a one-stoplight town hold to the great cities? I felt that I belonged elsewhere, that water from a different stream would quench my thirst. I daydreamed about the pyramids, the glitter of New York, the cobbled streets of Europe. I did not know where my trail led, only that it led away. The few chances I got to see a bit of the world—British Columbia, Los Angeles, the white pillars of Hearst Castle, only sharpened the longing.

I had few friends to distract me, and endless time. I lived in the woods, in a bike saddle, my backpack a burden of books. I read hundreds every year, emptying libraries. Facebook did not exist, I had never heard of Wikipedia or Google, but paper pages gave me a window beyond my holy woods. Richard Halliburton's *Complete Book of Marvels*, the

steam-powered fantasies of Jules Verne, the gothic horrors of Poe and Lovecraft, the autobiographies of Franklin, Grant, Roosevelt; they all carried me away. I rode through Spain with gangly Don Quixote, smoked stale Mississippi tobacco with Huckleberry Finn, stalked grimy London with Holmes and Watson, traveled with John Steinbeck and his dog.

Sometimes we get thirsty for things we cannot even quite name. Like deer, we pant, then follow some inner instinct and start running.

When I slept, in a bunk bed behind a musty pocket door, King Arthur's knights haunted my dreams, always the same. They rode in single file, rusted armor creaking down Bridge Street. They whispered to the attendant of the Mini-Mart gas pumps that they sought the Holy Grail, guarded by the dark Fisher-King, who endlessly bled, angling for steelhead in the dead Nehalem. They went down to the river, one by

one.

In my dream, they never found their Grail, only stood quietly sinking into the muddy bank, watching the water rush away.

There were many moments of happiness, too—but the overwhelming drive was to run. Not to escape, but to discover. I'm told that in Welsh there is a word—*hiraeth*—for a sense of home that you have not experienced yet. Like a memory of the future. It is the right word.

Sometimes we get thirsty for things we cannot even quite name. Like deer, we pant, then follow some inner instinct and start running. We may look for what we thirst for in a thousand good and bad things. We can look for it in money, in work, in family. We can look for it at the bottom of a bottle or pipe or syringe.

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Bridge Street Bits

SENIOR CENTER BOARD ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS. At its December 10th meeting, the Senior Board elected its 2016 officers: President, Jack Harvey; Vice President, Sykes Mitchell; Secretary, Sandy Welch; Treasurer, Pat Ray; and in a newly-approved position, Assistant Treasurer, Tobie Finzel. Four board members (Wayne Marr, Sykes Mitchell, Pat Ray and Ilene Grady) were re-elected and Karen Miller was elected to the position vacated by Tom Sherman. Thanks for your faithful service, Tom, and welcome Karen. There are twelve board positions, a third of whose three-year terms expire each year.

NEW SENIOR CENTER AND FOOD BANK BUILDING GRANT APPROVED. As detailed in a press release in the last issue of *Vernonia's Voice*, we were notified of our successful community development block grant application for a combined use building that will be located next to the Vernonia Health Center. Planning will commence this month. We're looking forward to having our services – excluding the thrift store which will remain on Bridge Street – consolidated in one high ground location.

OUR NEW SENIOR AND HOME-DELIVERED MEAL PROGRAM CONTINUES. In cooperation with three Vernonia restaurants - Black Iron Grill, Mariolino's and Vernonia Subway - the Senior Center is providing daily home-delivered meals and issues donation-based certificates for in-house dining from specially designed senior menus for residents 60 and older. You may obtain the certificates Mondays from 10 am to 3 pm from Wendy at 939 Bridge Street. Questions? Call Wendy on the special telephone number for this program, 503-405-0187. See below for home delivered meal information.

FOOT CARE appointments may be made with the Vernonia Health Center receptionist during clinic hours, 8 am through 4:30 pm, at 503-429-0622, Monday through Friday. The next foot care date is Wednesday, January 27, 2016; appointments can be made now. She may add a second day per month. Watch for details. Our provider, Joyce Jossi, RN, is certified in diabetic and elder foot care. In case of unexpected snowy or icy road conditions, please verify with the Health Center whether Joyce is able to drive to

Vernonia on that day.

BARGAINS ON BRIDGE STREET at 939 Bridge accepts donations during its regular business hours: Monday – Friday 9-3 and Saturday 10-3. Please bring donations inside. The thrift store welcomes you as a shopper, too. All donations and purchases support senior services in Vernonia. Watch for special SALE signs in front of the store. VOLUNTEERS are always needed to keep this vital program going; please let Pam, Thrift Store Manager, know if you are willing to help out occasionally – or regularly!

THE VERNONIA SENIOR CENTER OPERATES IN TWO LOCATIONS. The Senior Center Office and the Thrift Store, "Bargains on Bridge Street," reside in the former VCLC building at 939 Bridge Street. Certificates for senior meals at participating restaurants are available there on Mondays from 10 am to 3 pm. Daily home-delivered meals are still available to qualifying persons; contact Community Action Team office on Mondays at 503-366-6584 for more information or to register. Board meetings and social activities such as the Friday

afternoon card games are held in the American Legion Hall at 627 Adams.

WALKING WEDNESDAY is an opportunity for gentle exercise for seniors and anyone in the community who'd like to join us. Walking Wednesdays continue at Vernonia Lake at 9:00 am each Wednesday, rain or shine. Walk at your own pace with a friend or solo. No fee and no pre-registration – just come and walk one or more circuits around the lake.

RUSS CLARK, COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER, IS AVAILABLE to meet with clients in Vernonia. Russ will be at the Senior Center (former VCLC) in the office at the end of the hallway on the first Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 7:00 pm.

NEXT SENIOR CENTER BOARD MEETING is Friday, January 8, 10:00 am at the American Legion Hall/Cares. All members are invited to attend.

VERNONIA SENIOR CITIZENS, INC. 939 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064
Phone: 503-429-3912
Non-Profit Tax ID #23-7422295

Vernonia Senior Center • 939 Bridge Street • 503-429-3912

Church Directory (in alphabetical order)

Assembly of God

Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Prayer: 6:00 PM
Wayne Marr, Pastor
662 Jefferson Avenue
503-429-0373

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Sunday Schedule:
Sacrament Meeting: 10:00 AM
Sunday School & Primary: 11:20 AM
Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women: 12:10 PM
Roger Cook, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
503-429-7151

The Crossing

Southern Baptist Church of Vernonia
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Troy Pound, Pastor
Cabin in Vernonia
901 Park Drive
503-819-8921

Grace Family Fellowship

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Thursday Prayer: 6:00 PM
Greg "Mac" McCallum, Pastor
957 State Avenue
503-429-6790

Nehalem Valley Bible Church

Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service: 10:45 AM
Tues. Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 AM

Wednesday Service: 7:00 PM
Sat. Men's Prayer Meeting: 6:30 AM
Gary Taylor, Pastor
Grant & North Streets
503-429-5378

Open Door Gathering Place

Service: Sunday 6:00 PM
Grant Williams, Pastor
375 North Street

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Wednesday Religious Education: 3:15-4:30 PM
Sunday Mass: 12:00 PM
Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator
960 Missouri Avenue
503-429-8841

Vernonia Christian Church

Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service in Youth &

Family Center: 11:00 AM
www.VernoniaChristianChurch.org
Sam Hough, Pastor
410 North Street
503-429-6522

Vernonia Foursquare Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Children's Sunday School
Carl Pense, Pastor
850 Madison Avenue
503-429-1103

Vernonia Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sabbath (Saturday) Services
Sabbath School: 9:30 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM
www.VernoniaSDAC.org
Larry Gibson, Pastor
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
503-429-8301