



Inside Movies: Hell or High Water

This gritty tale of robbery and revenge is a thrilling modern day western

By Jim Bryson

When one thinks of a library, inevitably they think of books. However, our local Vernonia Public Library has much more to offer. In fact we are blessed with a robust and active library that offers regular and special programs for both children and adults, has magazines and other newspapers to peruse, and computers for the public to utilize.

In addition, our library has an excellent film collection offering patrons a first-rate resource that you could be making use of.

Our library is often bringing in new titles and recently they acquired *Hell or High Water* (2016). This modern day western explores the story of two desperate Texan brothers, Toby Howard (Chris Pine) and Tanner Howard (Ben Foster) who have come up with a scheme to save their failed family ranch from the local bank who intends to take it over due to questionable debt. The elder brother, Tanner, has recently been released after spending a decade imprisoned for the murder of their abusive father. As a last ditch effort, the brothers decide to revert to bank robbery as a means to save the family ranch. While Toby is the brains of the scheme, Tanner provides the impetus for action.

In response to the brothers' robbery spree the Texas Rangers dispatch aging Marcus Hamilton (Jeff Bridges) and his Native American partner Alberto Parker (Gil Birmingham). Marcus is days from retirement while his partner is mid-career. This dynamic is well explored in the film and delightfully *Hell or High Water* does not walk the same path of previous films in its genre, but instead turns it upside down. While their partnership dramatically reveals this film to be a "western" in the truest sense, here the white man is old and out of touch and the native is the progressive modern man.

The director of *Hell or High Water*, David Mackenzie, is Scottish born and yet still captures the American west in its beauty and also its bleakness, while creating a gritty



and gripping tale.

There are repeated visual references to the hard economy, with billboards advertising payday loans and foreclosure auctions, which reminds the viewer this is a modern story, yet the dialog and interplay between the main characters feels familiar to any fan of the western genre.

While on its face, this is simply a revenge and bank robbery story, the film not only suggests that the western remains valid and alive, but also makes the connection between the circumstances that these two modern day outlaws experience, and what might happen to similar characters in a film set in the 1890s as well.

As the audience, we can watch this story and feel that, not only are the protagonists justified (up to the point of murder) in their actions, but that we too might only be a small series of unfortunate events away from finding ourselves in a similar situation.

This film, and many more wonderful westerns, can be checked out from the Vernonia Public Library. There are also quite a few children and family movies as well, and the library is always acquiring new titles. Please join me in this column each month as I explore other films in their inventory.

With such a fine collection of free entertainment, you should be watching more film!

Affordable Homeownership Opportunity Available in St. Helens

continued from page 5

Debbie Ritthaler, Habitat homeowner and member of the Family Services Committee could not agree more. "I have always said I already won the lottery! Receiving an opportunity to own a home from Columbia County Habitat for Humanity was a life saver - security, confidence and a lifelong place to call home. Now I am blessed to be able to work with this group to help another Columbia County resident find security in homeownership."

Founded in 1999, Columbia County Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian housing ministry that depends on donations from the community and volunteer labor to build homes for families in need. CCHFH is an equal housing opportunity lender that offers affordable mortgages to families that meet three requirements: need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner.

For more information call the affiliate office at (503) 366-1400 ext. 2 which is located in the ReStore on Hwy 30 in St. Helens. The information meetings will both take place off-site at Warren Community Church, 56523 Columbia River Hwy, Warren, Oregon.

For more information, please contact: Jennifer Anderson, (503) 396-6421.

Natural Path Health Services

DR. CAROL MCINTYRE, ND, LAC
NATUROPATHIC & CHINESE MEDICINE

clinic 503-429-3928
fax 888-977-1763
ccmnd@yahoo.com
naturalpathhealthservices.com

758 WEED AVENUE
VERNONIA, OR. 97064

Bighorn Logging

since 1981

**Contract Logging
503-324-2422**

**Free Estimates
Timber Purchases
Timber Management**

Oregon Professional Logger certified since 1996

New Day Massage and Bodyworks

Therapeutic Massage Specializing in

- Auto/Work Injury Rehabilitation
- Medical Massage Cupping
- Manual Lymph Drainage
- Nutritional Counseling
- Post Mastectomy Care
- Oncology Support
- Sauna on-site

Heather Lewis,
LMT, LMP, CLT, NT

847 Madison Avenue, Vernonia
For appointments call: 503-429-4677

Insurance accepted #10732

RIDE INN

Now Open! • 15 rooms • Fully remodeled
900 Madison Avenue, Vernonia
971-227-0462 503-382-9380 jeromecordell@gmail.com

MIKE PIHL LOGGING CO., INC

Free Estimates
Specializing in Private Timber

503-429-1470
cell 503.789.1268
fax 503.429.0252

mplogging@frontier.com
1984 mist drive, po box 321 vernonia, or 97064