

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

The Library had several great programs for kids this winter, thanks to a great deal of volunteer support. Many of the fun programs that appear in our schedule of events are inspired and carried out by volunteers. In the past, the Library has hosted a volunteer run Chess Club, Stamp Club, board game events, after school reading program, and a Pajama storytime. A recent example of a successful volunteer run program at the Library was a puppetry workshop.

Volunteer Amy Ragan taught 12 of our Vernonia K-5 students how to make their own puppets and puppetry skills at the Library's January - February Puppetry Workshop. Students met for one hour, every Tuesday afternoon for six weeks. They made their own sock puppets using socks, cardboard, masking tape, and felt. Faces for each puppet were designed by students. After puppets were made, students learned how to play a part with their puppets in an adapted version of *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses*. They put on a great performance on Tuesday, February 27 for an audience of over 50 people. Great job students! And thank you Amy Ragan and all the parents for your hard work.

On Thursday, March 1 the Library hosted its 4th Annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration. The event featured a reading of *Green Eggs and Ham* by the Cat in the Hat, pictures with the Cat, crafts, activity stations, and a fabulous birthday cake presented by the local On a Roll Bakery. Fifteen teens and adults volunteered at the event, attended by over 80 people. What a great celebration and so fun to see the Library filled to the shelves

once a year with community members. Thanks to the Friends of the Vernonia Library for making this event possible every year.

The Library welcomes volunteers to host events, lead small groups, assist at events, and help shelve and prepare crafts. Volunteering at the Library is a great community service or Senior Project opportunity for students. Please contact Shannon at the Library, (503) 429-1818 or shannonr@vernonia-or.gov if you are interested.

Upcoming Events

Animal Friends Storytime – Lizards!

Friday, March 16, 10:30 am
Stories with a special animal visitor. Karen Peters will be bringing in her lizard friends to visit. Simple craft to follow. For young children and families.

St. Patrick's Day Pre-Parade Craft

Saturday, March 17, 12:30 pm
Come by the Library before the parade (at 1:30 up Bridge St.). Listen to a Leprechaun story and make something green to wear to the parade! For children and families.

Oregon Season Trackers

Tuesday, March 20, 6-8 pm
Q&A session free but \$40 to register and get a rain gauge to participate in the program, go to <http://bit.ly/ORSeasonTrackerTraining> or call Sonia at OSU Extension: (503) 397-3462.

Laika Animation Event

Wednesday, March 21, 6 pm
Crystal Tabaldo of Laika Entertainment will discuss the process of stop-motion animation and bring a wire armature to show what the inside of the puppets look like. Also, puppets from various

short films, including *The Box Game*, and showing of the short film, *The Box Game*. Laika Entertainment is a studio in Hillsboro, Oregon, famous for stop-motion animation. Films from Laika include, *Coraline*, *The Boxtrolls*, and *ParaNorman*. This event is sponsored by Vernonia Hands on Art.

Ongoing Programs

Kids Book Group

Friday, April 13, 4:30-5:30 pm.
Selection for April: *The City of Ember* by Jenna DuPrau. For kids and families. Reading level and grade level interest of titles will vary, ranging from grades 3-6. If interested in the book group and would like to be on the contact list, call or visit the Library (503) 429-1818 or email shannonr@vernonia-or.gov

Knitting Group

Saturday, March 17, 10 am-Noon
For knitters with all levels of experience. You're welcome to bring your own materials or project. If you need materials or have questions, contact Caitlin at boylandknitworks@gmail.com.

Writer's Group

Thursday, March 15, 6-7:30 pm
3rd Thursday of every month. For writers with all levels of experience. Meetings for February and March will be at the Fire Department meeting room.

Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. Discussion for March 26: Books of Ursula LeGuin

Storytimes

Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 10:30-11:15 am
Songs, rhymes, books, toys, and bubbles! For ages 0-3. Older

siblings welcome.

Family Storytime

Thursdays, 6:30-7:15 pm in February and March. Stories and a craft. Planned for families with pre-schoolers but older and younger children welcome.

No Friday 10:30 am storytimes in February and March. They will resume in April.

Did You Know?

We Have Board Games

Along with Books, DVDs, and Audiobooks, the Library has a collection of family board games to check out. We have several Peaceable Kingdom cooperative games, including Race to the Treasure and Cauldron's Quest. Also classic games, Battleship and Settlers of Catan. And many for families with young children. Come by the Library to see our collection, or play one with family or friends while you are here.

Featured Titles:

New Release by Willy Vlautin

Willy Vlautin visited the Vernonia Library in February 2017, discussing his book, *Lean on Pete*. This title is soon to be a movie, coming to theaters in April of this year. Willy Vlautin is coming back to our Library on Friday, April 27, at 7 pm for Columbia County Reads. He will be talking about his latest book, *Don't Skip Out on Me*. If you are interested in reading his book before the event, contact the Library to place a hold on a copy.

Hours & Contact Info

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 5 pm
Tues & Thurs 1 pm - 7pm
Sat 10 am - 4 pm
Closed Sundays

Phone: (503) 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month

Columbia County's Developmental Disability Program is managed out of Columbia Community Mental Health

The Developmental Disability (DD) Program at Columbia Community Mental Health provides services and resources to almost 400 people in Columbia County. The program is voluntary and available to anyone who meets the criteria for an individual with a developmental disability per Oregon Revised Statutes. The program supports people with intellectual disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Effects and Syndrome, among many other diagnoses. The DD Program can offer numerous resources including, but not limited to, case management services, in-home attendant care, relief care, community transportation, adaptive supplies, home modifications, behavioral consultation, adult abuse and neglect protective services and investigations, and assistive devices and technology.

More now than ever, children and adults with developmental disabilities are being supported in their homes and local community. They have increased access to the same opportunities and services as everyone else. They are valued members of society who

are engaging in the classroom as young people and who are serving the community through integrated employment opportunities. The State of Oregon philosophy has really made a priority of serving people in their local communities and allowing them to self direct their lives. In 2009 the last institution known as Eastern Oregon Training Center (EOTC) serving people with developmental disabilities was closed in Oregon. No longer are individuals sent far away from home to sterile living situations and having their lives limited by government policies.

The DD Program in collaboration with the state office and many community partners work to support individuals to meet their goals and realize their dreams. A prime success story of the program is 24 year old Arthur Middleton. Arthur grew up in Knappa, Oregon before moving to the county, and Rainier specifically, in 2014. He attended Rainier High School and Arthur confided in a staff member there about how there were some people in the community taking advantage of him and mistreating him. The contact put Arthur in touch with the DD Program who worked with him and a long time Columbia County provider organization known as Community Access Services (CAS) to find him a home in Clatskanie, Oregon that was a positive fit and a safe

place for him to stay.

Approximately a year later the DD Program finished a two bedroom transitional apartment for Arthur where he lived for over a year. Community Access Services continued their support in the form of their Supported Living Program. In 2016, Arthur found a job at the St. Helens McDonalds where he works three days a week. As a result of his hard work and the job coaching support he receives through the program he has been successful at work for over two years earning a living and producing for his employer.

In 2017, Arthur decided he was ready to move from the DD Program's transitional housing and try living in the community on his own again. He's been a true success story. He's found a place that he enjoys, is affordable, and close to work. He enjoys engaging in local activities, and commuting from his new apartment to St. Helens to work just like his neighbors. He's successful, feels supported, and most importantly is happy.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue April 5.