

Between the Bookends

By Charlene Bechen
Banks Library Volunteer

School will soon be out for the summer. Sign up begins June 10 for the Summer Reading and "Read to Me" programs at the library. This year's theme is "Catch the Wave—Read" and is represented by Otto the Surfin' Octopus. Special programs will be held each Thursday at noon beginning June 23 with the return of old friends, B.J. and Scampy's Merrily Magical Mischief. Subsequent presentations will feature Lizbeth on June 30; We Care Sports on July 7; magician Bob Eaton on July 14; Puppets to Go on July 21; storyteller Nina Lemkuhl on July 28 and a puppet show by Cheshire Fox on August 4. Readers will set their own goals in terms of the number of books they want to read as well as the degree of difficulty of those books.

Work continues on the Friends of the Library-sponsored "Shady Evergreen" quilt. Previous quilts have raised about \$1,000 each. Proceeds are used by the "Friends" to help buy needed books and supplies that could not be obtained by county funding alone. Quilters are meeting on a weekly basis in Banks to work on the quilt. A booth is also planned for the Washington County Fair, where stitchers can put the finishing touches on the quilt. When complete, it will be raffled off at the Banks Barbecue in August. Quilters are welcome to any of the sessions. Please call Jami Masson at 681-9453 or Donna McCall at 324-3404 for more information.

June 11 is the next recycle Saturday at the SWATCO service yard at 15945 NW Sellers Road. SWATCO is located about 1 block south of the Sunset Highway. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Magazines are now accepted, as well as glass, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, steel (tin) cans, brown paper bags, motor oil in screw top containers and plastic milk and water jugs. Bringing in your recyclable materials on the second Saturday of each month not only helps the environment, but also provides funds for the library through the efforts of the Friends of the Library. Volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to help, please call Donna McCall at 324-3404.

For parents with reluctant readers, our new book, *Parents Who Love Reading, Kids Who Don't*, by Mary Leonhardt, will be welcome reading. Ms. Leonhardt holds degrees in English, Education and Learning Disabilities and has taught English in public and private schools for more than twenty years. Drawing on her rich experience in the area, she identifies seven stages that children go through as they develop their reading skills. Her clear and down-to-earth advice can help concerned parents guide their children along. Also included is a list of Kid-recommended books that are guaranteed fun to read.

Library Hours: Wed. and Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thurs. 1-7 p.m., Fri., 1-5 p.m.
Address: Oak Village Shopping Center, 669 S. Main Street. Phone: 324-1382

More Letters

(the spirit, not the group) is all about.

Well done, Vernonia!

Sandra S. Welch
Vernonia
(and proud of it!)

Vernonia Spirit: it really is great

To the Editor:

I've never been so tired and felt so good about it in my life. I want to thank Genie for giving me the opportunity to help a few do so much.

We cleaned, we fed and we raised money for community projects and, of course, the much-needed community center. I hope the next time we have a Vernonia Spirit Day, more of you will want to feel as wonderfully tired as I.

Thank you to all who worked so hard. I know we have a proud past — bright future — working together.

JoAnn Beamish
Vernonia

Thanks for your leadership, Tim

To the Editor:

The members of the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery Beautification Committee would like to thank Mr. Tim Bamburg, former chairman, for all his time and effort over the past several years. The committee has reached many of their goals over this past year, due to his strong leadership and faithful service.

We wish him the best of luck in his new position on the Rural Fire Board.

Jeffrey W. Hoyt, Chairman
Shirley Daughtry, Bob King,
Ray Pelster, Synda Allen

Medical equipment needed for seniors

To the Editor:

The Columbia County Council of Seniors have a Free Loan program of medical equipment for those persons who are disabled and cannot afford to buy or rent such equipment. At this time, the program has run out of the following equipment: Wheelchairs, commodes, electric hospital beds, etc. If you have equipment that you would be willing to donate for those in need, we would be

very grateful.

These aids are so meaningful and helpful when people are not able to function 100 percent on their own. They may be delivered to the warehouse at the Scappoose Senior Center or call (503) 397-4000.

Dorothy Churchill
Director
Columbia County
Council of Senior Citizens

Thank you for your understanding

To the Editor:

In the wake of the recent appeals court decision, it is important to understand that only a tiny facet of the drug policy has been found illegal, namely who may authorize mandatory urinalysis. The ruling removes from government control this (in our minds) dubious child rearing strategy and returns it to parents.

There is no indication of legal difficulty in parents' individually requiring their minor children to take the tests, or in the children convincing their parents to allow them to volunteer. The only restriction is that drug testing may not be a requirement for participation in district programs.

As a practical matter, in our small district, such a change would likely have little effect on the policy's much vaunted efficacy. If reports of the program's popular support have any validity, it seems most families would sign up at the first offering. Discussions of significant behavior problems with offenders' parents would likely lead to further enrollment. Grave criminal penalties already attend parental connivance in juvenile felonies, should such a desperate case be discovered. The sufferance of law abiding student citizens who take their legal rights seriously need not hinder anyone who wishes to adopt urinalysis as a matter of parental policy.

Testing the constitutionality of the drug testing policy adopted by our community school district is, for us, entirely a matter of principle and citizenship. Whatever the legal finding, we feel that this policy represents a narrowing of guarantees of personal liberty which require public airing and understanding. We are fortunate to be members of a community which understands and respects these motives, and which allows the long process by which our system adjudicates these issues to go amicably forward.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne & Judy Acton
Vernonia

Urges support for law enforcement levy

To the Editor:

On May 17th, the voters of
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Ike Says (cont.)

and was now bleeding from its gills. The hook had been deep in the fish and, when it was torn out, had severed the arteries in the gills. The fish swam slowly off, then turned onto its back and floated down the river, never to fight again.

The old timer felt a wave of disgust with himself, for he surely did not want his fishing for sport to jeopardize the fish that he dearly loved to catch. He decided it was time to stop fishing for the day and slowly made his way back to his pickup.

In the hour that it took him to drive home, he agonized over killing that beautiful fish. It

wasn't the first fish he had killed, for he had taken hundreds of fish in his lifetime. No, the hurt was to lose a fish now, when the runs are low and the demand is high. Remembering that he hadn't even tagged a fish this year, since all the fish he had caught were wild, made him feel a little bit better. Surely he was entitled to take accidentally, not to eat, at least one fish this year.

Many of us know this sportsman in our community; he may be neighbor or a friendly wave from a passing pickup. And now you know his wintertime love—the wild steelhead of the Nehalem River.

Letters to the Editor

Spring Spirit Day was truly joyous

To the Editor:

It was my joy to join with over 100 people April 30 to spruce up Vernonia during the Spring Spirit Day. As I helped register people of all

ages, I saw smiles on faces of young and older as they received their assigned area to clean. Families, as well as groups, took their SOLV litter bags and rubber gloves and headed to their areas and worked for the next six hours (some even longer).

During a break from the registration table and my work area, I drove through Vernonia to see the activity: people, side-by-side and group-by-group, joining their efforts to spruce up Vernonia. That's what Vernonia Pride

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