

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

As each Summer Reading Program draws to a close, I have mixed feelings—feelings of relief because everything came together to combine learning with fun, feelings of gratitude to parents for caring that their children read and learn through the summer, feelings of companionship with the adults as well as the youth involved and, of course, feelings of concern, wondering if there will be interest and enthusiasm in a program for next summer.

This summer was very special because the concept of introducing the youth of Vernonia to a variety of world cultures and arts by having actual contact with representatives of these cultures was so successfully realized. Individuals representing Australia, Russia, Korea and Nigeria each presented information while allowing the children to share in experiences, customs, stories and songs.

The program on International Folk Dance, which was supported in part by a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, added yet another method to reach an understanding of other cultures. By involving the forty participants in

the day-to-day lives of the natives of Southwest Asia, Carol Newman built a series of patterns and steps resulting in authentic folk dances.

The grand finale of the sessions consisted of Indian legends told by Rietta Behnke. The campfire that was planned to be the catalyst for special effects, became briquettes contained within a barbecue when fire season ended recreational campfires. Nevertheless, comments of "How did she do that?" indicated that all were suitably impressed.

The parade entry, *Vernonia and Trees Growing with International Rings of Pride*, combined the Jamboree theme and the Summer Reading Theme and was awarded the grand prize. How could anyone have resisted those cuties dressed to represent many cultures of the world? It was a terrific summer program. For those of you who participated, congratulations! For those of you who didn't, don't miss out next year.

Library Hours: Monday and Friday 1-5 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Preschool Story Time:** every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

people who do not have library cards and to make sure at least one is available at all times.

Librarians report that the GED books, which include practice tests, are very popular and are often checked out.

The Clatskanie Library received its set at the library board meeting Aug. 2. By August 9, the first book was checked out.

Libraries will also receive pamphlets explaining the GED, along with promotional posters.

Even most entry level jobs today require a high school diploma or GED and some businesses require a GED or high school diploma for promotions.

According to 1990 census information, almost 22 percent of Columbia County adults over age 20 do not have a high school diploma or GED; 38 percent have GED or high school diplomas and only 8 percent have a four-year college degree.

Industries and businesses

considering locating in an area often take into consideration the educational level of the workforce.

The area's Workforce Quality Council supported the grant request.

Currently in Columbia County, GED class offerings are limited. Classes are available in St. Helens through Portland Community College, at MTC Training and Placement for workers who qualify, and through Even Start Family Literacy, for families who have at least one child under the age of eight. Tutoring is available through Laubach Literacy volunteers.

Providing libraries with GED books allows adult learners to work independently or with a "study buddy" to prepare for the tests, which are administered locally at the Columbia Education Service District office in St. Helens.

For more information about Even Start Family Literacy, call 556-3736.

GED preparation books donated to county libraries

Thanks to an expansion grant from Oregon Department of Education, adult learners in Columbia County will have new sets of GED preparation books in their community libraries.

Cathy Lindsley, director of Community Action Team, Inc.'s Even Start Family Literacy program, applied to the

Department of Education for the more than \$2,500 grant to offer adult learners better access to GED preparation materials and coordinate adult literacy efforts.

A portion of the grant paid for 10 sets of Contemporary Book's GED preparation series, about \$600 worth of books. The books cover each

of the five GED tests—mathematics, literature and the arts, science, social studies and writing. Another book is a summary of all five tests.

Each of the county's five libraries is eligible to receive two sets of the series with the suggestion that one remain in the library as a reference for

Books requested for LGS library

Lincoln Grade School is trying to establish a library and is seeking books in good condition that would be appropriate for children from kindergarten through second

grade.

Donations may be taken to the school district office until school starts, after that time, they may dropped off at Lincoln Grade School.

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