

Between the Bookends

By Charlene Bechen
Volunteer, Banks Library

The last presentation for the Summer Reading Program is scheduled for Thursday, August 7 at 2:00 p.m. Fire code allows only 100 persons in the community room at a time, so free tickets will be distributed to the first 100 children, beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. Priority will be given to children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Any tickets remaining after those children are accommodated will be given to others wishing to attend. The Friends of the Banks Library is sponsoring "B.J." (formerly of B.J. and Scampy) with his Comedy Clown Show.

Completed reading records may be turned in any time this month. Those readers achieving their goals will receive a book award.

Be sure to stop by the library to see the beautiful quilt that will be raffled off at the Banks Barbecue on August 17. The quilt was made by former Banks resident, Janet Schlegel Nelson. She and her father, Irwin

Schlegel, are donating the quilt. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Banks Library. The quilt is a red and white "Irish Chain" design. Fabric with a strawberry print was used to commemorate the long history of strawberries being grown in the Banks area. Raffle tickets may be purchased at the library for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00.

Watch for the Friends of the Library float in the Barbecue Parade, and the Friends table at Sunset Park.

We hope to have a new book drop installed by early September. We are looking forward to the completion of the repairs to the driveway. We apologize for any inconvenience to our patrons. Thank you for your patience.

Banks Library is located at 111 Market Street. **Library Hours:** Tues. and Thurs., 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 324-1382 for information.

Letters to the Editor

Time for City to give clear information

To the Editor:

In the months following the Flood of February, 1996, many homeowners in Vernonia completed paperwork at the request of the Flood Relief Committee. After this paperwork was processed, 30-35 homes were selected to receive federal assistance to raise them above the Base Flood Elevation. Extensive time and energy were spent collecting data, writing grant requests, and complying with the bureaucratic regulations. At the time, requests were made for two grants, one to assist in the elevation of homes and another to purchase property in the floodplain and/or floodway to convert it into a greenway.

A committee was appointed to follow through with the grant request process and to allocate the federal funds when they became available. These funds, approximately \$350,000 have been available since early summer. In Centralia, another community severely affect-

ed by the flood of 1996, they have identified over 150 homes to be raised and are actively involved with Emmert International to complete this project before the end of the dry season. Here in Vernonia, there has been no communication from the appointed committee on any progress or plans in the making. Questions directed to City Hall or the committee about any progress or plans are answered with a firm "I don't know".

Personally, I do not want to spend another winter with my house surrounded by water, a situation aggravated by a drainage problem the city refuses to address until the vague and elusive Comprehensive Plan is put into action. Nor do I want to spend another winter vulnerable to a major flood, an event that historically is occurring more frequently and with more damaging effect.

For the last few months I have been looking for my own financing to raise my home. I cannot even find out if I will be partially reimbursed from the

federal funds, a situation that is complicating the loan application process.

It is past time for the homeowners to receive some definitive information on the allocation of these funds, and past time for the people responsible to be accountable to the residents of Vernonia.

Don Cadmus
Vernonia

Cruise-in a success for the fifth year

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Nehalem Valley Speed & Beauty Car Club members, we would like to extend a gracious thank you to all the participants, sponsors, family members, friends and public for the success of the Fifth Annual Vernonia Jamboree Cruise In, Aug. 2.

A special thanks to the Bouncing Baby Boomer Band & the Legendary Boomettes for a fabulous repeat performance for the 430 entrants to our show. This show could not be possible without all of your

POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT welcomes readers' letters, but all letters must be signed and include a verifiable address and telephone number, though the address and phone number will not be printed. We reserve the right to shorten or edit letters for clarity. Letters containing libelous statements or personal attacks on individuals will not be printed.

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More Letters

generous support and participation.

Sincerely,
Glenda Delemos and
Jack Sweeney,
Co-Chairpersons
Nehalem Valley Speed &
Beauty Car Club

Thanks for enjoyable "Fair Lady" pageant

To the Editor:

The 1997 "My Fair Lady" pageant held July 23, 1997, Senior Day at the Columbia County Fair, was an enjoyable, successful afternoon. Congratulations Queen Thelma Thomas, Princess Betty Lou Stickler, Princess Velma Richardson, and Princess Tessie Aldrich.

The Columbia County RSVP Advisory Council and Director wish to express our appreciation to the sponsors of the pageant and luncheon: Columbia River PUD, Pacific One Bank, and the Columbia County Fair Board. They made it all possible.

A special thank you to the following people and businesses for making this year's pageant a success; 1996 "My Fair Lady" Queen Dorothy Place, Connie Quick, Don Kelley, Leonard Gartman, Betty Vilhauer, Joel Yarbor, Bill Eagle, Judy Lugar, Sandy's Flowers, VonDerade Florist, St. Helens Rural Fire District, Mike Derby, Corrine Humbird, United Way of Columbia County, Toni Nelson, Tonya Dowse, Patty Feris, Joy Shelby, Helen Purkerson, Lorna Bradley, and Josh Harwood.

Thank you,
Nancy Harwood, Director
Columbia County RSVP

Is area becoming part of "Animal-Land"?

To the Editor:

What the Hey!!

The car was sitting in the parking area in front of the cafeteria at the university. It was a modern full-sized sedan but with the back window shattered. Maybe heat expansion caused a blowout. Good grief -

the front window! It truly appeared as if the vehicle had met a Triceratops (the three-horned jobbie) right out of the movie, *The Lost World*. In the center of the windshield, the glass was punched in, as in the manner of a grotesque funnel, massively shattered, but holding shape. Modern technology. But what about the driver?

The driver, it turns out, is the manager of the cafe, busy as she went about her daily chores, however exhibiting a bit of edginess and dismay, to say the least. She was driving home later in the evening when some of our young people decided to launch a large beer bottle out of a car traveling (obviously) at high speed, from the opposite direction. She should be dead - headless!

A flashback!

Three or four years ago on a lazy summer day, I was bicycling near Roy when a paper beverage container loaded with pop and ice was lobbed at me from a passing pickup. The container actually ripped through my shorts upon impacting my leg. They must have gotten their "yucks" because I was definitely laid out over the handlebars for a while. The County Sheriff said I should carry a pistol in the future.

So I moved to country, Vernonia, to space myself from "Animal-Land". Did it work? Sunday past, I was quietly bicycling back from Mist (still attempting to stave off the onset of fat and aging), when I detected a large vehicle approaching from behind. Thousands of miles on a bike over the years indicated to me that the truck was going to pass very close. The wheels of the 26 pound bike were on the absolute edge of the pavement. The truck-trailer rig (you know, one of those gravel carriers that looks like a bridge section) was incredibly close. The bike wobbled but didn't trip on the pebbles. A fall, and road meat! Deliberate - what do you think? Lots of road, a straight-away and nothing coming from the other direction. Lots more "yucks" for sure. I should be dead! One can hear the call to my wife. Most unfortunate. She wouldn't have even needed a casket. Flat. The talk around town - you know that guy who moved here a year ago. He was on the Council - one of those. But a bullet simply would have bounced off the back end!

As a supporter and officer of the Pacific Northwest Truck Museum, the incident was disappointing, to say the least. My observation of big rigs around town has been impressive, particularly concerning the log trucks. Great rigs! Good road practices! Safe drivers! But "IT" happens. Maybe he didn't like my legs! Don't despair though, your turn will come. Our society is good at delivery. Want to make a difference? But which way?

Julius Dalzell
Vernonia



Rilla and Brandy

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Fall cleaning time is a good time to consider trading for a new vacuum cleaner. If you don't need a new vacuum cleaner, it's also a good time to have your machine serviced.

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