

**Between the Bookends**

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library

The Vernonia Public Library has received a \$300.00 grant to improve public library services to children. The Ready to Read Grant program was established by the 1993 Oregon Legislature and is administered by the Oregon State Library. The 1997 Legislature unanimously approved a 50% increase in the Grant program. Since 1993, the Ready to Read Grant has been used across Oregon to purchase children's library materials, hire staff to provide library programs, bring library services and materials to at-risk children and to provide computer equipment in libraries for children. The Ready to Read Grant was established to assist local libraries in helping to achieve the Oregon Benchmarks for childhood learning and development. State Librarian Jim Schepcke noted that, over the years, many libraries have used their Ready to Read Grant funds to reach out to those children who have the greatest need for library materials and services. "The 50% increase in funding to 75-cents per child can bring even more quality library service to all the children in Oregon," Schepcke said.

This year Vernonia's grant is being used to purchase materials to supplement the local kindergarten curriculum. In the past it has been used to purchase story/picture books for preschool programs and for resources to aid in home school programs. This is one of the ways that your state taxes are used and the State Library suggests thanking our local legislator for his support of the increase in this grant money. This year one hundred and twenty grants with a total amount of \$529,316.00 were made to eligible libraries in Oregon.

During the holiday season several individuals chose to give to the library's "giving tree." We were pleased to receive a total of \$85.00 to purchase books and a contribution to pay for a month of Internet service. These gifts are very

much appreciated and will be used to benefit the patrons of the library.

It has been the custom for several years to place a new book in the library in appreciation for each library board member's service to the library. This has been done as they complete or resign their terms on the board. The latter part of 1997 found two members, Art Parrow and Ginger Johns, leaving the board. Library patrons will now find a lovely book, *Oregon on my Mind*, containing the best of Oregon in words and photographs, in recognition of Art Parrow's having faithfully served on the library board since 1993. (The only problem with this book is that it doesn't have a thing about Dufur). I looked and looked trying to find a book that would be an apt recognition for Ginger Johns, who began serving on the board in 1991 and who served as chairperson from 1994. Ginger, then, had a suggestion of her own for a book entitled, *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff...and it's all small stuff*. This book shows you how to keep from letting the little things in life drive you crazy and offers some wonderful advice such as "Spend a moment every day thinking of someone to thank, Practice ignoring your negative thoughts, and Live this day as if it were your last. It might be!" It may not be a large book in size, but it is an enormous book in ideas—a proper tribute to a lady who, though small in stature, has contributed some enormous ideas to me and to the library.

New acquisitions this month also include David Baldacci's *The Winner*, and LaVyrle Spencer's *Then Came Heaven*.

Remember that the library is open until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays for your reading, check-out, research, Internet access, etc. and keep reading.

**Vernonia Library 919 Bridge Street.**  
**Hours:** Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. 1-5 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Phone:** (503) 429-1818

**Letters to the Editor**

another problem and that is volunteers, we sure could use some.

Allen Russell is delivering meals on wheels, and we would like a stand-by to fill in when he is not available.

Respectfully,  
**Larry Doppke**

**Four-legged duck hunting not planned**

To the Editor:

The scene is set, the decoys are in place, the camo donned, face paint applied; my son and I are tucked into the tall grass waiting for light and the legal shooting hour to arrive. Beep, beep. Beep, beep. "It's shootin' time!"

As if the birds live by my watch, whoosh, they zip over my dekes and I spring to my feet to show my young son how to properly bag a wild duck. Two empty barrels later, I had to break it to Eli and my dog Tilly, that every once in a while, I miss.

I began to teach Eli how to watch for ducks and explained how important it is to stay still when they begin coming into the decoys, when I got a second chance. BOOM, SPLASH, "Find the bird Tilly!" After showing off my duck and praising my mutt, once again we watch the ever-lightening sky.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, ETC. (Oh no, not me. Them there's elk hunters!)

It started about a half mile away, just outside of town. Over the span of about 15-20 minutes, the BOOM, BOOMS, got louder and louder and closer and closer until I felt like I was at the season opener at Summer Lake.

Like thunder, the elk came crashing through the brush and began jumping the fence off to our right. They made a quick turn and started running right behind us. We were at the bottom of an embankment and could look up and see their heads running by.

SWOOSH, BOOM, SWOOSH, BOOM, BOOM BOOM, BOOM, (are you getting the idea), BOOM, BOOM, ETC!!!!!! "Hit the deck!" Luckily, I had let my son watch some TV shows that his mother does not allow, so he understood the phrase.

While we were on our bellies, the barrage continued. Suddenly a hush fell upon the pond. Finally, testosterone-filled voices mingled in the mist. "Hey boy, get away from that elk!"

I slowly peek over the rise to see a dead elk 20 yards away. A young teenager looks surprised to see me and Eli on our bellies in full camo. I collected my decoys and readied for retreat. When we came over the rise, this burly dude spots my dog and yells, "Yer huntin' with dogs?"

"Uh yea, it kind of helps to get the ducks off the water," I said, as I proudly held up my feathered friend. As he and his

partner began dressing the elk, he looked at me and proudly announced, "When yer from Vernonia, you know where the elk are." Maybe it was shell shock, or post traumatic syndrome, but I had none of my usual smart-butt remarks. I quickly made haste to my truck.

Here's the scoop: Last year I stopped by the Kunkel's house, they're the ones with the big white fence outside of town toward Mist, and asked if I could hunt ducks. Don thanked me for asking and said that it would be no problem. He just wanted me to call the night before I hunted. COOL!

As usual, I called and checked in the night before hunting. That morning the elk were chased through fields and houses until they reached the pond. There, they jumped into Kunkel's field and ran parallel to Hwy 47. There are horses tucked back by the pond and a house on the other side. When the elk entered the field they were caught in a cross fire. People were shooting from behind them and also from the road.

The fellow who, "knows where the elk are", stopped on the opposite side of 47, jumped out with his partner and unloaded, killing a spike. Nobody asked permission. Check the trespassing laws and you will find that property does not have to be posted for you to be required to ask permission to hunt.

These fellows have now inspired some people to make a safety zone around Vernonia. I want to inform people about the differences between safe hunting practices and those of the not-so safe. I use a shotgun. It shoots BBs and has a lethal range, at the very most, of 100 yards. The BBs quickly lose their energy and rain down a short distance away. High-power rifles, on the other hand, can send a bullet over my head, across the pond, through some brush, through a wall and land in someone's living room a mile away. Don't let the abuse of others ruin the fun of those who are safe and courteous.

Dan, The Duck Man  
**R. Daniel Miller**  
Vernonia

**Fire Board ignores request to read letter**

To the Editor:

My wife, Gerri Faylor, (former Office Mgr. at Vernonia Fire Dept.) faxed a three page letter to the [Vernonia Rural Fire District] Board chairman to be read at the Jan. 13 Board meeting. It was full of information stating as to how inefficiently the Dept. is being run at this time. The letter was not read aloud. I'm appalled that this was not dealt with in a proper manner. Wake up Vernonia.

**Phil Faylor**  
tax paying citizen  
Vernonia

**Letters to the Editor**

**Senior Center needs your assistance**

To the Editor:

The Vernonia Senior Center wishes to thank all those who give good recyclable articles to the Center. We sell such articles to generate money to keep

the Center open. Without your generous contributions this would not be possible.

In the "Senior Center News" of this issue, I stated that the price of lunches would go from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Here are some of the reasons (there are more).

There are people in Vernonia

that use the Center to get rid of their trash. We have received a cardboard box with broken glass, one shoe of a pair, unmatched socks, broken lamps, sofa with one or two legs missing, televisions that don't work, computers that don't work, beds with no rails. Now please tell me, how can we sell such articles?

These articles have to be discarded in our trash dumpster. We pay on an average of \$140-\$147 per month. With the trash mentioned above, our trash bills can be close to \$200, and this, folks, hurts the Center financially. We try desperately to get a little money set aside for lean times, but it is almost impossible.

We have cut our budget to the bone. All the monies collected for the rolled papers now go to COLCO to help them out financially.

Money that we get from the Government has been slashed back. Now for COLCO, as I stated, not only have the Senior Center funds been reduced but COLCO's funds have been reduced as well. The question now is, how can COLCO raise money?

Well, folks, COLCO is the only city transportation available, so why don't more people take advantage of it?

If you want to go to Portland, St. Helens, Beaverton or Forest Grove, please check the Senior Center for times and prices.

Now I would like to address

**COLUMBIA COUNTY EXTENDS AN INVITATION to CITIZENS to PARTICIPATE in its HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING PROJECT**

A series of public meetings is being held to provide for public participation as the County gathers information regarding things that can be done to eliminate or reduce the impacts of future hazards.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Day	Date	Time	Location
Thursday	Jan. 15, 1998	7:30 p.m.	Rainier City Hall
Tuesday	Jan. 20, 1998	7:30 p.m.	Mist Grade School
Thursday	Jan. 22, 1998	7:30 p.m.	St. Helens High School Commons
Tuesday	Jan. 27, 1998	7:30 p.m.	Scappoose High School Cafeteria
Thursday	Jan. 29, 1998	7:30 p.m.	Vernonia Fire District Fire Station
Thursday	Feb. 5, 1998	7:30 p.m.	Clatskanie City Council Chambers