

Between the Bookends

By Cecelia Sadtler, Volunteer
Banks Public Library

March winds have already blown in a flurry of new books to the shelves of the Banks Public Library. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library, you'll find a great assortment of mysteries, romance, western novels, and biographies. Many of the new titles and authors you'll recognize from the New York Times' bestseller lists.

One new book is Steven King's serial novel, *The Green Mile*. When King issued this best-seller in monthly installments, millions of hooked readers anxiously awaited each cliff-hanging episode. Now, for the first time, all six exciting parts come together in one volume to let you enjoy this masterpiece uninterrupted, from gripping opening to shattering climax. Those who love King will not want to miss this gem. *Entertainment Weekly* touted this work as "King's best in years...a novel about prison that's as haunting and touching as it is just plain haunted."

Another great book from an acclaimed best-selling author is Anita Shreve's newest release, *Fortune's Rocks*. Shreve, who teaches writing at Amherst College, and also wrote *The Pilot's Wife* and *The Weight of Water*, brings us this profound and moving story about unwise love and the choices that transform a life. *Fortune's Rocks* is a beautifully written, but jarring story about the erotic awakenings of a young woman and the exploration of class prejudices at the turn of the century. If you want to read an unforgettable love story, grab this book fast.

Gap Creek is an Oprah selection written by Robert Morgan, an accomplished novelist and poet whose writings have earned him numerous prizes and awards. In this novel, Morgan brings to life one of the most memorable women in modern American literature. Julie Harmon lives in Gap Creek in the Appalachian high country. She is a most unusual woman, depended on by everyone in the community. Working as hard as a man, Julie finds that people are weak and there is always much to do. Along with her husband, Hank, she slaughters hogs and nurses the

dying. Together they find the world of the late 19th century to be intensely complex. In *Gap Creek*, Morgan brilliantly chronicles their struggles with nature, work and the changing century. It is a powerful story.

An Emmy-nominated screenwriter and poet, Rita May Brown is also an immensely popular novelist. In her latest work, Brown penetrates the world of Virginia foxhunting, where hunters, horses, hounds and foxes form a lively community. *Outfoxed* is a colorful foray into an intriguing world where the thrill of the chase and the intricacies of human-animal relationships are experienced firsthand, and a stunning murder exposes a proud southern community's unsavory secrets. Even the animals, who have uncanny human counterparts, make their strong opinions known. This is a book that will surprise, delight and enchant the happy reader.

Remember that new books arrive almost daily at the Banks Library, so be sure to come in for a great selection of bestsellers or to just browse the aisles until you find something interesting. You'll find copies of *The Independent* right near the front desk. The Library also reminds us that it's getting close to tax time, and new forms are in. The Library is a convenient place to get your forms as well as the IRS book that contains every form in current use. You can copy forms from the book at 10 cents per page.

March 11 is Recycling Saturday in Banks. Just in time for Spring cleaning, you may take all your recyclable items to the SWATCO Service Yard on Sellers Road. Volunteers and Friends of the Library will be there to assist you from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If your cleanup includes books that you would like to donate to the Library, please call first to verify donation criteria and to schedule an appointment.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Preschool Story Time, Weds., 10:15 a.m.
Phone: (503) 324-1382
Internet: www.WILnet.wocls.lib.or.us.

Letters to the Editor

officers in the Vernonia Police Department. They have been and will be dealt with appropriately. I take full responsibility to see that officers receive proper training and are properly supervised. Providing constant supervision can be extremely difficult with a small staff and when you are trying to provide 24 hour coverage, seven days a week. The supervision issue will be a priority.

I realize that some officers have been criticized for being overzealous and stopping too many cars for minor traffic infractions. I understand the concerns of people and that small communities need to be policed slightly differently than a large metro police department. But on the other hand we must realize that we have the same problems here as the larger cities, just on a smaller scale. We have narcotics problems that put police officers and citizens at risk. Many times traffic stops reveal those transporting, using and delivering narcotics in our city. We have those who visit our local drinking establishments, consume too much alcohol, leave and drive off. I feel these individuals should be stopped and dealt with appropriately.

This does not mean that a person should be afraid to go to a drinking establishment, have a beer and drive home. The law does not prohibit someone from drinking and driving (unless you are under 21 years of age). It prohibits a person from drinking to the point they are under the influence and driving. Everyone is responsible for their own actions.

I encourage the reporting of complaints as long as they are

legitimate complaints. I realize some mistakes have been made and I have taken action to resolve these problems. Nothing is ever solved overnight. The Vernonia Police Department will continually strive to better provide a quality service to the people of Vernonia.

I encourage you as citizens to give me feedback. I am very easy to work with and know what it takes to be a small town police officer.

Jim Walters
Chief of Police
Vernonia Police Dept.

Volkswalk Club slates activities in Vernonia

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter on behalf of our walking club, The Cedar Milers. Our club has organized a pair of 10-Kilometer (six mile) walks, and a longer bike ride in Vernonia on Sat. April 1, 2000. We anticipate that up to 300 people, (possibly more) will attend these events.

The purpose of this letter is to alert your readers. We hope that this will maximize acceptance that participants experience on April 1.

I was invited to speak at the Vernonia City Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 22, and spoke about the history of Volkssporting, introduced our club, and explained the benefits that Vernonia could expect. The Cedar Milers are excited to have the scenic surroundings of your town for these events. We hope to make Vernonia's residents as excited to have us there on April 1.

Sincerely,
William R. Glessner
Beaverton

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to musicians for all their help

To the Editor:

The Friends of the Scout Cabin owe a big thank you to

Bob Ragsdale for providing the music of the Swingtones for the Valentine's Day Dance fund raiser.

Thanks, also, to several musicians who donated their pay back to the Cabin, including Randy and Bonnie Holce of Vernonia.

Those of you who did not attend this event missed an opportunity to hear some good music of the 40s and 50s eras. The people in attendance had a good time dancing to the music of the Swingtones.

Friends of the Scout Cabin

Thank you to all the Toy and Joy donors

To the Editor:

The Vernonia Volunteer Fire fighters Association and the Toy and Joy Committee would like to thank the following people and businesses for their generous contributions to the 1999 Toy and Joy drive.

Rod Alexander, Napa Auto Parts, Meyer's Auto Body, Vernonia Realty, Creative Impulse, Gwin Logging, Olympic Resource Management, Laura Nichols, The Hair Parlor, Evelyn Holce, the Holce Crew, Tech Network, Econo Fab, Vernonia Sentry, Mercedes Proehl, Adhesive and Packaging Systems, Jerry and Glenda Raney, Bernice Frey, Robert and Lola Gregg, The Yard Doctor, Dhai Barr, Knotty Bear Tree

Farm, Holce Logging, Mike Pihl, Rising River Ranch, Bridges Alternative Group, S & L Logging, Jack and Lois Sweeney, Wilcox and Flegel, Country Kitchen, Western Auto, Metro West Ambulance, Northwest Natural Gas and the anonymous donors.

The committee works very hard each year to help our community at what can be a very stressful time for some people. We put our hearts into this project and care a lot for our community. If it wasn't for the people who support this project, we would not have one, so on behalf of the Toy and Joy committee, I would like to say thank you so very much for all your support.

Sincerely,
Scott Swaner,
Toy and Joy Chairman

Walters' responds to complaints

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to several complaints from a few citizens against the Vernonia Police Dept., at the Feb. 22 council meeting. I am Jim Walters, Chief of Police of the Vernonia Police Dept. This is a position I am very proud to hold and always try to provide the best possible service to the people of this community.

I do not take lightly legitimate complaints about me or

POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT welcomes readers' letters and will publish as many as possible. All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address and telephone number, although the address and phone number will not be printed except at the writer's request. *The INDEPENDENT* reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity or clarity.

Library appreciates publisher's donations



JUDY HALL/THE INDEPENDENT

Vernonia Librarian Nancy Burch, left, is all smiles about being on the receiving end of a book donation from national publisher R.R. Donnelly. Vernonia City Councilor Cindy Ball, right, is employed by the publishing company and arranged to have the library receive a selection of books on a yearly basis for both adults and children. The series for children focuses on multiculturalism. Adult readers are treated to volumes from the history-oriented Lakeside Classics series, begun in 1903 by Thomas E. Donnelly. Each year R.R. Donnelly reprints and distributes one worthy book, often long out of print and not easily obtainable. The series is characterized by first-person narratives of American History.

Ike Says . . .

From page 2

Oh boy, that water was cold! Wearing a wetsuit and a good paddle jacket, though, was the key to being able to continue in relative comfort. With the river temperature in the mid-forties, a person must wear the right equipment or run the risk of hypothermia. Matt has a lot of experience at river kayaking, and I learned a lot from him, including why I flipped where I did. Matt also showed me the fine art of wave surfing and tucking in behind obstacles in the middle of rapids. It is amazing to be able to sit in the middle of a rapid and ride the forward edge of a wave without having to paddle at all. So, if you live by a river and hear somebody scream, "Oh that water is cold!" It's probably just me, taking a swim as I continue to learn the ways of the river.

Izaak Walton League meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome. For meeting location, call (503) 429-7193.