

Between the Bookends

By Cecelia Sadtler, Volunteer
Banks Public Library

April is already proving to be a busy time for the Banks Public Library. The month began with an event called Wool Day, which has attracted wool lovers in the area for nearly twenty years. This year, local experts were on hand to give demonstrations of weaving and spinning, to offer advice, and to peddle their wares. The Library wishes to thank everyone who helped make this day such a delightful success.

On April 4, the Friends of the Library met for a planning session, and on Saturday, April 29, they will hold their Annual Plant and Book Sale. If you are a person who can't imagine two more satisfying pastimes than reading and gardening, this is the perfect event for you. Plant donations are encouraged! Please contact the Library at 324-1382 if you have plants, vegetable starts, seedlings or books that you'd like to donate. The Library staff will help arrange a convenient time to bring in your goods. Plan to arrive early if you are coming to the sale. This event always draws an enthusiastic crowd, and the best selections go fast.

Friends of the Library have also been busy stocking the shelves with new and exciting books. Their most recent donation includes such up-to-date titles as *Plainsong*, a haunting and elegant story of family, romance, tribulation and tenacity, set on the High Plains east of Denver. *Passage to Juneau*, by Jonathan Raban, is another eloquent selection full of ideas, natural history and social observations made during Raban's solo journey through the Inside Passage. And Clive Cussler, author of *Flood Tide* and *Shock Wave*, returns with his most audacious novel of all, *Atlantis Found*.

Murder is on the menu in Diane Mott Davidson's tantalizing tale of culinary mystery and suspense titled *Tough Cookie*. Goldy Schultz, the book's heroine and chef turned sleuth, is in a terrible mess after she finds a crumpled body on the ski slopes, and her own life in jeopardy. Goldy knows that if she is to survive, she must whip up a crucial, crime-solving recipe.

Carolina Moon is an utterly spell-binding tale

by Nora Roberts, who just keeps getting better and better. This is a story about a woman, Tory Bodeen, battered in body and spirit who returns to her South Carolina home determined to free herself from haunting visions of the past. Living so close to those unhappy memories proves to be more difficult and frightening than Tory could have ever expected, but she is willing to open her heart, just a little, and try.

If April is a time for you to begin planning special vacations or holidays, you'll want to check out one of Fodor's most recent exploring guides. *Fodor's 2000* includes useful maps, background information, addresses, phone numbers and anything else you'd like to know in order to sketch out an exciting trip to Cancun, Cozumel, the Yucatan Peninsula or Costa Rica. With these handy guides you'll learn the basics of getting there and getting around, when to go and what to pack. Don't leave home without Fodor's.

Remember that new books arrive almost daily in Banks, so be sure to come in for a great selection of bestsellers. While you are at the Banks Library, look around to see the additional benefits they have to offer. You'll find a rack with local and community information, including copies of *The Independent*, lots of brochures, flyers and ads for cultural events. In addition to books, many exciting videos, magazines, and reference materials are indexed into the database. User-friendly, full color, personal computers with Internet capability are available for your use. Photocopies and computer copies are available for 10 cents per page.

Don't forget Recycle Saturday, sponsored by the Friends of the Library and staffed by loyal volunteers. Just in time for spring cleaning, it will be held this month on April 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the SWATCO Service Yard on Sellers Road.

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

miles of stumps removed with the topsoil.

When evening comes, birds will no longer sing and you can enjoy the company of your 100 friends who would turn on you when you need them most, or you speak a taboo thought.

Thank you,
L.W. Denison
Vernonia

Citizens have every right to complain

To the Editor:

The citizens of Vernonia should be outraged and embarrassed by the letter written by Mayor Parrow and Councilors Leonetti and Ball concerning citizens complaints at a city council meeting.

The Mayor and Councilors should be thankful that complaints were filed and outraged that they had to be filed. But rather than express their outrage about the inappropriate actions of a city employee who may cost this city big bucks in litigation, they choose to castigate the citizens of Vernonia and local businesses.

These three individuals sound more like city employees than elected representatives of the citizens of Vernonia. They rightly point out that they have the authority to establish policy and the power to hire and fire city employees and that they are an existing police review board. But let them not forget that they have that authority because we, the citizens, give it to them.

Any citizen who is unhappy with the established policy should have every right to try and change it, by informing the council of his desires, by petitioning the council, by the initiative process or at the ballot box.

Frank Schrier
Vernonia

Vernonia is a great, supportive town

To a small town with a large heart:

My husband and I moved to Vernonia twenty-three years ago with four children with very special needs. We were total strangers, the town welcomed us and our special little ones into their hearts.

The school district was very supportive and met their special needs. The teachers and bus drivers were very helpful in seeing that our three boys were accepted and loved. They did much to help their self-esteem and all, allowing them to grow into fine young men.

Our little girl was adopted when she was four and one-half years, and left our home.

I just want to thank all you dear people for your acceptance and encouragement of my boys.

I especially want to thank the 9-1-1 people for their many trips out to help Eric during his last years. Eric went to be with the Lord on March 20, leaving many fond memories of all your

help and encouragement in his short life.

A lot of you keep an eye on Don when he is in town and at the games. Thanks so much for your kindness. It puts my mind at rest in letting him on his own.

Steve gives such glowing reports of his years in Vernonia; how much help you were in his school years.

Thanks again to a small town with a big heart.

Bernice Frey
Vernonia

(Ed. Note: To those of you unfamiliar with this remarkable family, the Freys raised several foster children with the same loving care they provided for their own children.)

Victim of theft offers substantial reward

To The Editor:

How would you feel, coming home to find that someone had entered into your private space and had taken what you had worked for? It doesn't feel good, not at all! On Tuesday, March 14, a person, most likely persons unknown to us entered our pole barn and carried off our Honda generator and a brand new Pioneer CD car stereo. It had to have been more than one person, as the generator weighed well over 400 lbs. This happened in the middle of the day, while we were away. They entered and scavenged through our camper, leaving muddy footprints all over the floor and carpeting, not caring at all what they were doing to the people who lived there.

We moved to Vernonia almost four years ago and have always felt safe and secure here. Now that feeling has been replaced with suspicion and UN-trust.

I can't sleep well at night. I'm afraid to let my kids walk to the bus stop down the road. I dread coming home from work, afraid of what else might be gone. I have this feeling of being violated. My security is gone and will take a long time to return. I now am suspicious of every vehicle that drives down our road. Are they the ones who took our things? Are they back for more? I don't want to feel this way, and especially don't want anyone else in our town to feel this way.

What I want to do is fight back. Fight back by offering a reward of \$500 cash for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who took it upon themselves to take our things. We have a good town here, and we should all want to make sure that all of us feel safe and that our belongings are safe. Have you seen a Honda ES6500 generator appear at someone's house that didn't have one before? Or perhaps a new Pioneer CD car stereo? Have these things been offered to you for sale? Your information and help could get you \$500 cash.

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Letters to the Editor:

Zone change harms real estate values

To The Editor,

I would like to be the first to welcome Vernonia into the 21st century with the news of our first high density, single family/multifamily subdivision. On Monday, March 20th, the city council voted to approve the "planned development overlay" for Bear Creek Hollow. The vote was 3 "yea" and one abstain due to possible conflict of interest. I would like to add that one of the council members who did vote, was only present for approximately the last five minutes of the hearing. I wonder, how does a person consciously vote on an issue without hearing all of the public's concerns. But hey, what the heck, the city government only stands to gain from this plan. They get Maple St fully improved, and all future roads in this development improved at no cost to them. They also stand to receive a large sum of money for "System Development Charges" from the contractor, and increase their tax base. The losers in this issue are the residents neighboring the development. We get the pleasure of automatic depreciation of the real market value of our property because of the multifamily dwellings. But that's not a legal issue according to the state, therefore it is not the

city's problem. I might add though that it does not affect the taxable value, so the city still receives their fare share.

I would also like to applaud [City Planner] Julie Coontz on her legal expertise. Last year, though she may or may not be aware of it, the city planning commission stopped the same developer from selling the triplex (corner of Rose Ave. and Maple St.) as individual units because he did not get the proper "zero setback". It's my opinion that with or without this information, and regardless of her efforts, the system ended up being manipulated. No mention was ever made on the 16th that the triplex would be grandfather cloused and allowed "zero setbacks". I wonder if due to this lack of information, if the city planners were aware of the full impact of their recommendation to the city council. Either way, bravo, I believe she is a lawyer in the true sense.

I know I probably sound like a sore loser, but that is not the case in point. What I feel is that we, the neighboring residents, have been failed by our city representatives. We stood our ground in opposition on the legal ground that it would negatively effect our quality of life. That obviously was not a major issue. I would encourage all of the readers of this letter to familiarize yourselves with the

zoning ordinances around you. These issues could be you facing you next.

As for my family and I, we are taking our loss in stride. We have learned new and valuable lessons, and will be able to apply these in the future. We plan to sell our home and move away from this development, possibly outside the city limits.

Mike Orth
Vernonia

A little taste of wry

Dear Editor:

Oh, it is great to be an American, and is there a place more so than Vernonia?

There you can walk the great Linear Trail and view our majestic clear-cuts, surely this is a wonderful attraction that should draw tourist dollars for photography, bird watching and riding horses to drink herbicide laden water. What could be more fun to than catch and release fish in our streams?

If shooting is your mark, there's plenty of ammo. Don't aim for the choppers with machine guns though, they're military protecting our freedoms, not the others either. So much poisonous herbicide in one spot would surely cause a disaster.

Enjoy the beauty. Only the worst possible forestry practices can bring an economy of