

Between the Bookends

By Cecelia Sadtler, Volunteer
Banks Public Library

A summer of reading fun is in store for all kids who participate in the 2000 Summer Reading Program at the Banks Public Library. "Ticket to Tomorrow" will launch readers on a journey to the unknown. Sign-ups have already begun and children of all ages are invited to participate in the activities and entertainment. Even pre-readers are eligible and will be partnered with older children.

At the end of the summer, free books will be awarded to all kids who keep their logs updated and meet the goals they set for themselves. Beside being lots of fun, the diverse activities in the Summer Reading Program provide an excellent opportunity for developing and maintaining good reading skills over the summer vacation.

In addition to the reading portion of the program, free performances are scheduled in the Library Community Room that are sure to delight young audiences. The first of these special events will take place on Saturday, June 24th at 10 a.m., when a family group known as The Whitman Story Sampler share their rich and lively act of tandem storytelling. Plan to come and experience the power of story in this wonderful multi-age family show. The remaining free performances at Banks will occur on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Clowns, reptiles, juggling, storytelling, magic and music will light up the Library and the faces of the eager spectators.

Think of your Library card as a Ticket to Tomorrow. Stop by to pick up your summer schedule and sign up for all the summer activities as you prepare to enjoy an exciting journey into the unknown.

Parents of pre-schoolers should note that Pre-School Story Time will end for this school year on June 14. We're certain, however, those kids will be thrilled to participate in the Summer Program. Parents can help build enthusiasm for reading by setting a good example. Why not plan for everyone in the family to get into reading this summer?

Adults will find the Library shelves brimming with bestsellers, new books and favorite authors. One of these books is *Before I Say Goodbye*, written by the queen of suspense herself, Mary-Higgins Clark. The story is about an apparent murder aboard a luxury cabin cruiser, leaving a widow who has recently had a serious quarrel with her husband. The widow, Nell, possesses psychic gifts, and Clark delves into the mystery of psychic powers and communication with the dead while building a tale of blood curdling suspense.

Also new book is *Galileo's Daughter*, inspired by actual letters written by the eldest of Galileo's three illegitimate children, and transformed into an unforgettable story by Dava Sobel. *Galileo's Daughter* dramatically redefines the personality and accomplishments of this mythic figure whose seventeenth-century clash with Catholic doctrine created a schism between science and religion that continues even now. The letters are

masterfully woven into the narrative, and grace the life of this famous father now as certainly they did then.

The Library also has some fascinating new books that will appeal to sports fans, horse lovers, baseball enthusiasts, and science fiction buffs. In the sports category there is *Have a Nice Day*, by Mick Foley, whose cover proclaims in bold letters: "This book is not for the squeamish." Indeed, this book is a gory autobiography and an intimate glimpse into the mind of one of the hardcore legends of wrestling. Mick Foley, the family man who loves ice cream and amusement parks is contrasted to the same twisted genius who staged the frightening Japanese Death Matches.

A very different kind of sports book is *Fair Ball*, by Bob Costas. NBC's award winning broadcaster shares his views on the forces that are diminishing the appeal of Major League Baseball and proposes changes that can be made to protect and promote the game's best interests. Costas examines the financial disparities that plague baseball as well as the inspiring "moments of authenticity" and gives us a provocative account.

Jane Smiley has written a funny, passionate and brilliant new novel about the sport of horseracing titled *Horse Heaven*. She weaves a marvelous tapestry of joy, love, folly and greed around her lively characters, proving that anything can happen at the racetrack. The universe of horseracing that has fascinated generations of royalty and robber barons is depicted with tenderness, clarity and originality in this energetic story.

Young adult readers will want to look for the first book in Tamora Pierce's THE CIRCLE OPENS quartet, called *Magic Steps*. The story of Lady Sandrilene Fa Toren's adventures and unusual magic will appeal to all fantasy and science fiction fans.

There are lots of ways to enjoy the benefits offered by the Banks Library. Books on tape, large print books, current magazines and popular videos are all available to be checked out. Copies of *The Independent* are on display. The whole family can catch the infectious spirit that is generated by reading.

Another activity that's just made for summer is recycling. Now that the weather is nice, you can clean out that shed or garage, get rid of old newspapers, eliminate the accumulation of cans and bottles, and help your library at the same time. This Saturday, June 10th is Recycle Saturday for Banks. Bring all those unwanted materials to the SWATCO Service Yard on Sellers Road between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Friendly library volunteers will be there to assist you.

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.wcccls.lib.or.us.

WOEC members asked for input on state mandate

West Oregon Electric Cooperative members are invited to provide input on a new "net metering" policy. A meeting is scheduled for June 20 at 7:00

p.m., prior to the regular board of directors meeting, at WOEC headquarters, 715 Maple St., in Vernonia.

The 1999 Oregon Legisla-

ture passed HB 3219, requiring utilities to have this policy for customers wanting to operate a generating facility of less than 25 kilowatts that can place electric energy on co-op lines.

Copies of the proposed Policy 311 are available at West Oregon Electric, or by calling 429-3021 or 1-800-777-1276. Members may also view the policy on the West Oregon website www.westoregon.org.

dad know how much you appreciate his efforts, and just like in that beer commercial, tell him how much you love him. Just maybe, he will give you a beer. Happy Father's Day, Dad!

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.

Ike Says . . .

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many great adventures in this life.

I have been very lucky to have had a father like mine. He has introduced me to the great outdoors in a manner that many people can only dream about. We have shared many hunting, camping, and fishing trips together, and I have memories to last me a lifetime. Kayaking though, is my own divergence. Hey Dad, want to get wet?
So this father's day, let your

Letters to the Editor:

July 4th festivities can use some help

To The Editor:

It's going to be time again for our 4th of July celebration. Letters have gone out to local organizations and businesses for donations to help pay for the fireworks. We will also be placing jars in downtown businesses for donations and we appreciate your support. Please be generous, as your help is what enables us to sponsor the fireworks every year. The fireworks display costs \$3,000.

Plans are much like last year's 4th of July. There will be a parade, open to all ages. Gather at Weed Avenue at 7:00 p.m. and the parade will start at 7:30 p.m. The route will be from Weed Avenue to the Washington Grade School. Fireworks at the High School football field at dusk. We are waiting for a couple of our permits to be approved and then we should be ready.

If there is anyone interested in making some signs or helping with the parade, please call me at 429-8134.

The Booster Club will have their concession stand as usual at the fireworks.

Lew's Place will be holding their Spaghetti Dinner for the benefit of the Fireworks Fund. The dinner will be on June 20th - hours 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Watch for signs downtown for more information.

If there are any changes for the 4th of July, look for them in *The INDEPENDENT*, which comes out again on June 21st.

Enid Parrow
Vernonia Prid

Keep healthy teen activities available

To the Editor:

Over the past several years, teen pregnancy has been a growing concern among many of Columbia County's community leaders. Since 1994, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Team, under the auspices of the Columbia County Commission on Children and Families, has worked to reduce teen pregnancy through education and programs.

May was Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, and we would like to celebrate by thanking you for your support of those programs that positively impact teen pregnancy prevention in Columbia County.

Art, drama, music, sports and other extracurricular activities help teens make healthy choices and provide them with healthy lifestyles. Did you know

that a girl who participates in positive extracurricular activities is 50 percent less likely to become pregnant than a girl who does not? That is an amazing statistic, and we need to continue to invest in our kids, our community and our extracurricular activities.

John F. Kennedy once said that if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. With your support of these vital programs, we will continue to take steps toward empowering our young people to have and make healthy choices.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer your time and energy towards extracurricular activities for our youth.

Sincerely,
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Team, Columbia County

Sophomore class appreciates support

To the Editor:

On Saturday, May 13, the Vernonia High School sophomore class had a can and bottle drive, and earned \$323.20. We would like to thank all who donated time, gas, bottles and cans. It is greatly appreciated. Special thanks go to Janice Holmes, Patrick and Ryan Peets, Donald Normand and Randy (Bud) Normand, as well as to the eight sophomores who helped.

Thank you for all of your support.

Vernonia High School
Class of 2002

Donations restored two stolen trees

To the Editor:

On April 26, two flowering cherry trees were stolen from the end of the driveway beside the police station. They were part of six trees to be planted at city hall on clean-up day - three on each side of Bear Creek. The trees were paid for with a grant from SOLV.

Thanks to Don and DeDe Webb, and to Vernonia Pride for funds to replace the two stolen trees. With their support, the thieves who tried to spoil our beautification project didn't win. They're the kind people who make Vernonia a great place to live.

Shirlee Daughtry
Vernonia

Policy on Letters

All letters accepted for publication by *The INDEPENDENT* must be signed and have a verifiable address.

Opposition to proposed DEQ rules

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request that a contested case hearing be held in secret, regardless of any impact the issues may have on the public. For instance, a major polluter

could request a secret hearing on pollution affecting an entire neighborhood.

The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, Michael Sheehan, a Scappoose at-

torney representing a number of public interest groups, and representatives of other citizen groups appeared to oppose the rules at a DEQ hearing on May 22d. No one testified in favor of the rules.