

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

The newest and most eye-catching addition to the library is the tile mural in the entryway. This was done by the Hands On Art Center following the '96 flood in Vernonia and colorfully depicts feelings and memories of youngsters and adults relating to that event. The mural (yet to be framed) is a wonderful work of art and a great addition to the library.

Cataloging is progressing with 4,073 items having been entered in the computer. Since the process began in June, a total of 150 volunteer hours have been used to save \$975.00 if minimum wage had been paid for their work, or \$1,955.00 if the items had been converted electronically. These volunteers have been doing a remarkable job. They remain committed to completing the project as soon as possible, have become very adept in entering the materials, and are to be highly commended for their efforts. Latest efforts have been concentrated on the non-fiction for young readers. Try the Athena Search on your next library visit.

A suggestion box will soon be in place in the library. If there are recommendations for reading material, programs you would like to see as part of the library's service to the community, or changes (hopefully, positive ones), you will have a place to submit these ideas. All suggestions will be reviewed and utilized, if feasible.

The Monday morning Pre-School Storytime will be conducted by Orissa Burghard and the after school story/craft sessions will resume in October. These will be Monday afternoons at 3:30 and Orissa will also oversee these sessions. Watch for the starting date.

Library patrons are being encouraged to return all overdue materials to the library so others can use them. Policies regarding fines for overdue materials are under consideration, but no decisions have been made. Patrons are encouraged to check their status regarding overdue materials and to resolve any discrepancies.

My recommendations for the month are *Drowning Ruth* by Christine Schwartz and *Winter Range* by Clarie Davis. *Drowning Ruth*

opens in 1919, with Amanda Starkey returning to her family home in rural Wisconsin. Amanda is returning because her shame from having been seduced by a dishonorable married man has caused her to have a nervous breakdown. Within a year, her beloved sister Mathilde drowns under mysterious circumstances. Mathilde's husband, Carl, returns from the war to find his small daughter, Ruth, in Amanda's tenacious grip. Amanda will tell him nothing about the night his wife drowned. The circumstances of that fateful night plague Carl, Amanda and Ruth and keep the reader intrigued to the final page.

Winter Range takes place during a hard, Montana winter. When Sheriff Ike Parsons, hears that rancher, Chas. Stubblefield, has fallen on hard times, he plans to offer assistance. When he finds Stubblefield's cattle starving in the snow or freezing where they stand, he feels obligated to notify authorities. Stubblefield is the heir of an old Montana family, while Ike is a Wisconsin native who has come west to marry the daughter of another Montana rancher. Ike is caught between the law pertaining to humane treatment of animals and the belief that a man's land and property are his own to use as he chooses. Starkey presents a vivid description of ranching in Montana, while she develops complex personalities and relationships that make this novel as fast paced as a thriller.

Planned for the near future will be a selection of materials labeled "Recommendations by Vernonia Library Patrons." This area will include books that local readers consider "good reads" and that they would like to bring to the attention of other readers. As you read, make note of books that you think others might enjoy and ask that they be displayed in this section.

Vernonia Library 701 Weed Avenue
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tues., Thur. 2 p.m.-7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Preschool Story Time, Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
Phone: (503) 429-1818

New PCC multimedia program may be chance to develop professional career

The digital world has opportunities for people equipped to take advantage of them. Portland Community College has a newly accredited program that aims at arming students with the skills needed to be multi-faceted entrepreneurs. PCC's Multimedia program is designed to provide students with the skills and experience needed to be a valuable employee in the professional world of multimedia. Some of the types of jobs that await a graduate of the program include multimedia associate producer, Web designer, Web content creation specialist, interface designer, multimedia programmer or authoring specialist, digital video

specialist, interactive technical writer and multimedia project manager.

The new certificate program also gives people already in the multimedia profession ongoing skill development to bolster their skills. The program was formally approved by the Oregon State Board of Education on Thursday June 15. The classes for the certificate program begin this fall, starting Monday, Sept. 25 at the Cascade Campus located at 705 N. Killingsworth Street.

The Multimedia program was created out of necessity and quickly became a partnership between the college and the industry. Its beginnings were a PCC faculty task

force formed in 1996 after a multimedia conference in Portland. An advisory committee to the task force was then formed, composed of representatives from a variety of Portland companies starved for graduates versed in the emerging technologies of the burgeoning multimedia market. By fall 1998, a complete multimedia program had been created.

The one-year Multimedia certificate requires a total of 60 credit hours, including 45 Multimedia credit hours, and 15 hours of approved electives. Some of the courses that are included in the Multimedia program include multimedia design, graphics, video and audio, authoring, Internet-building interactive Web pages, digital video editing, and vector graphics and animation. Students entering the program need to possess strong Macintosh or Windows computer management skills and should be familiar with essential software such as word processing and draw and paint programs.

For more information on this program, contact Terri Greenfield, division dean of Business and Government division, at (503) 978-5235.

Letters to the Editor:

Memory Walk 2000 for Alzheimer's

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

In honor of our many family members and friends who have suffered or are suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, Rising River Ranch Retirement Residence, a community resource since 1993, has formed a team of volunteers to walk in this year's Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk. The primary goal of this walk is to solicit your contributions to help aid in the research to find a cure for this progressive and degenerative disease. This disease is incurable and ultimately fatal.

For your information, Alzheimer's Disease currently affects nearly 12 million people in the United States alone, and that number will rise to over 14 million by the middle of this century. It affects nearly one in four households and it is estimated that by the year 2020, this disease will become the second leading cause of death in our elderly.

Over the past seven years, Rising River Ranch has taken care of many of your mothers and fathers, your grandmothers and grandfathers and siblings who have suffered from this mentally, and ultimately physically, debilitating disease. We have worked together to improve the quality of their declining years and we have cried with one another as the hope for a cure was not found in time for your family member.

This year, we have dedicated our walk to Ramona Shirley, a long time Vernonia resident who is in the final stages of this disease. She still resides with us at the Ranch. We ask that each and every one of you who is in a position to help, give what you can to help find a cure for this frustrating and debilitating disease.

Thank you for your support and your contribution, which is, of course, tax deductible. Please make your checks payable to the Alzheimer's Association and return to Rising River Ranch before October 6, 2000. Your donation will be tabulated and given to the Association as part of the team effort for Rising River Ranch Vernonia, on the day of the walk. God bless you all for your help and your contribution.

Don & Donna Foster
Rising River Ranch
16941 Timber Road
Vernonia, OR 97064

Supports Corsiglia for commissioner

To the Editor:

I have heard some stories about Joe Corsiglia. Most of the stories have been positive, but one story that I heard bothered me. I was told by an individual that Joe was hard to work with. I asked this person for specifics and I was told that he did not cooperate well with the City Council and Mayor.

My comment: "So, this is a bad thing? Joe is not a yes man."

I then asked this person if he had ever worked with Joe, and the answer was "no".

I have known Joe for a number of years and have frequently had the opportunity to work with him. I have found him to be a great person to work with and to be around. Talk to anyone on any board or commission that Joe has served on or overseen, and they will tell you that he is a real gentleman. He is a listener, creative, innovative and sensitive to the needs of others. Joe is the sort of person who has put public needs before his own, and has logged in hundreds of hours of donated community service. He was very much appreciated when he served on the Library board, and is now very much appreciated for the work that he is doing with the City Parks Board. He is good at getting a City Council's attention, particularly when they want to remain inattentive. Joe can be a hard person to ignore.

Joe has a vision for our county, and it is a vision that we all can share in. Joe will listen. Joe is concerned, and it is just not lip service, Joe really cares.

People may tell stories, but Joe's actions go beyond just stories. He really does care. I am supporting Joe Corsiglia in his race for County Commissioner, and I would like to encourage others to support him as well.

Bill Eagle
St. Helens

You will pay for timberland tax break

To the Editor:

Taxes are like weeds - you do not really want them, but they keep on growing. Your property taxes may grow this tax year. Your assessment will probably go up and thus, your rate will go up.

For example, last year Vernonia Fire District had a tax rate of .9535, just under a dollar per thousand [of assessed value]. But you did not pay that much because there was an "offset" of .1018, the spread-out amount paid in taxes by timber. This year, Vernonia Fire Department's rate is still .9535 (that number is set by law, by one of the silly initiatives passed in recent years). But you, the property owner, get to pay all of it. There is no more "offset", because the Oregon legislature changed the way taxes on timber are collected and distributed.

So, when you get your tax bill in a month or two, don't howl at the Fire Department, the schools, etc. We did not do it. Don't complain to the county assessor - he's just following the law. If your tax bill hurts, talk to your elected representatives about why they felt they had to give millions of dollars of tax relief to timberland owners, at the expense of house owners.

Members of the Board
of Directors of the
Vernonia Rural Fire
Protection District

Peace and beauty out of tragedy

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hung.

A decision had already been made to hang the mural in one of the newly planned municipal buildings, either the library or city hall, but they were barely started. Because wall construction hadn't started, there was still opportunity to incorporate elements in the design that would make it possible to hang the heavy ceramic mural on a wall. The library entryway was selected, and extra studding

and bracing were incorporated in the wall's construction.

Now, in the fall of 2000, the mural has been hung and awaits only the finishing touch of a frame. Dan Brown will design, build and install the frame. Even without that, however, it is heart-warming to see the beauty and optimism that emerged from devastation - with the help of a cadre of dedicated volunteers and liberal applications of hands-on art.