

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library

It's hard to believe, but the due date for library materials is now in December and when this article appears, it will be mid-November. Several important activities will be taking place before this time next month. Organization of a Friends of the Library group is in the beginning stages. Anyone interested in being involved is encouraged to contact the library staff and their talents will be put to use.

Free computer classes, under the direction of Cheri Peck, will once again be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The time and date for L.V. Schoonover's instructional computer sessions will be announced shortly. Orissa Burghard's pre-school story times and afternoon story/craft activities are held each Monday at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., respectively, except on days when there is no school. Keep these in mind for your youngsters. Orissa usually creates her own crafts to correspond to the books she reads, and the after-school sessions have been especially successful.

The library will be participating in Vernonia's Holiday Open House, with cookies and hot drinks available to the public in the Margaret Thiele Petti Meeting Room. Refreshments will be provided by library board members and a Christmas tree with a "wish list" of items for the library will be featured at this event and through the month of December. Also in December, the library hopes to initiate a schedule of fines for overdue library materials. Until the details of this are finalized and an inaugural date for this policy is announced, overdue books may be returned with no penalty. The policy will be fully explained to library patrons, with the beginning date made perfectly clear before the plan is implemented. Be sure all of your presently overdue library materials are returned so you will be starting with a "clean slate" when the policy becomes effective.

Automation is progressing with 5,480 materials having been entered, to date. With volunteer hours totaling 180, the savings so far amount to \$1,170, if the minimum wage had been paid, or \$2,520 if 46-cents had been paid for each item to have been sent away for electronic conversion. Since a complete inventory has never been done of library materials, it is estimated that about two-thirds of the task has been completed. Don't forget to search electronically for

that title, subject or author when visiting the library.

The suggestion/comment box has yielded some interesting views that deserve a response. One of these will be addressed in this space each month, as well as on the library's bulletin board. Several youngsters have requested video titles that are new releases or titles reflecting a horror theme. The response to this is that the library has never intended to compete with video stores by obtaining new releases. The budget for videos is minimal, with most items in the collection having been donations. The videos that are purchased are usually Disney movies, films with a family-oriented theme, or some old videos that individuals have felt would be enjoyed by other library patrons. With this in mind, your suggestions will be taken into consideration and your donations will be gratefully accepted.

Recent acquisitions include *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Sugarplum Dead* by Carolyn Hart, *The Carousel* by Richard Paul Evans, *What a Woman Must Do* by Faith Sullivan and *A Whale Hunt* by Robert Sullivan. These books encompass a wide range of settings, plots and true-life situations. Kingsolver sets her novel in the Appalachian Mountains, where she weaves three stories of human love, and, in so doing, reveals the truth that humans are only one part of life on earth. Hart uses the unique atmosphere of the South as Annie and Max Darling solve a Christmas whodunit. Evans' newest love story is set in Ogden, Utah. Faith Sullivan relates life in Harvester, Minnesota, as she tells the story of three generations of women and their struggle to break free from the tragedy that brought them together. Lastly, Robert Sullivan chronicles the two years he spent in Neah Bay, Washington, as the Makah Indians prepare and stage their first whale hunt since the 1920's.

The goal in choosing library materials is to provide a wide enough range of authors and topics to meet the needs of the reading public. Hopefully, at least one of these will be just what you've been waiting to read

**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

## Time for comic relief...

After an overly long, tense political campaign season, we would rather laugh than cry:



Row vs. Wade: The great Western Fishing Controversy

## Letters to the Editor

### Cartoon of closed gates is off base

To the Editor:

I must comment on the editorial cartoon in the October 10 edition. It shows a pickup with huge tires parked outside a gate with the sign reading "no entry no nothing" while the caption reads "lets see...if they block off more roads, control our guns, let animal rights and enviro groups get control, raise hunting and fishing fees, add more rules and restrictions ...there won't be a way to hunt, fish or recreate."

I have to say "Give me a break!" Why do they think the gate is blocked? It is to keep guys like that in their big-tired 4-wheel drives from tearing up the existing roads or driving off road and running over newly planted trees and other vegetation.

If they are serious hunters, can't they get out of their rig and walk in on their own feet? What kind of challenge is it to hunt with a high powered rifle from the cab or your truck?

If only people could act a little more responsibly and use some self-control, we wouldn't need so many rules and restrictions. Unfortunately, some hunters and fishermen do not exhibit sportsmanlike conduct. There is always an increase in litter along the back roads after hunting season, in the form of beer containers, snack sacks and spent shell casings.

It also seems that at every popular fishing spot, you readily find fishing line, hooks and the packaging remains of fishing tackle strewn about.

I am not saying that all hunters and fishermen act in this manner, nor am I opposed to these activities. But, it needs to be done in a more responsible, respectful and honorable way. I truly believe that we, as human beings, are but one species and don't have any special rights to the planet's resources. In fact, with our supposedly superior brain and abilities, we should be doing everything in our power to protect this wonderful planet, especially from ourselves.

**Karen L. Eshelby  
Birkenfeld**

### VHS Class of 1950 says changes good

Open letter to the community of Vernonia:

On September 8, 2000, the Vernonia High School Class of 1950 had a class reunion in the newly refurbished "Scout Cabin." We were a small class and meeting as we have over the years has bonded us only deeper.

There was much discus-

sions by the fellows as to how football could have been played on such a small field. [Hawkins Park was then the high school athletic field.] Where were the bleachers? Where was the bridge? Were these big Redwood trees here then? Surely they could not have grown so large in any lesser period of time. Information came into the group during our three day stay that the creek had eaten up 35 feet of football field on that side and those beautiful big trees were planted in 1962, after we had graduated. My how time flies. They are big and beautiful.

There was much emotion as each spoke of Vernonia and returning to our hometown. Vernonia played such a big part in our past. Vernonia is our past, our youth and our future, and also your future. We, the Class of 1950, want to thank you for all the hard work and pride that shows in the beautification of the city. We saw the sidewalks repaired, loved the flower pots on the street and the improvement in the buildings. The new city hall and the new library are very new and very nice.

The scout cabin was awesome. The meal provided by your local caterer was wonderful, the service was prompt and timely.

In summary, we appreciate all the time, effort, community pride and the improvements accomplished. The new bed and breakfast and the scout cabin facilitated and provided a place to have group meetings and reunions with banquets.

Thank you all; we will see you at all of our future functions of this magnitude.

**Joyce (Webb) Gates for  
the Vernonia High School  
Class of 1950**

### Community Garage sale very successful

To the Editor:

Vernonia Pride and the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery Committee would like to thank the community for all their support of our Garage Sale. We netted approximately \$2,700 over the two weekends. Thank you for the donations, in money and goods. Thank you for coming in and buying. Without your support, we would not have had such a successful sale. Thank you to Glenn Purvee for the use of his building and the different groups that loaned us tables to use.

Congratulations to Kathy Morrison, winner of the book, *Intimations of Paradise*, by Christopher Burkett, donated by him for our raffle.

Thanks to everyone.

**Enid Parrow  
Vernonia Pride**

## POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT welcomes readers' letters and will publish as many as possible. All letters must be signed, including those sent by fax, and include a verifiable address and telephone number, which will not be printed except at the writer's request. Unsigned letters will not be published.