

Between the Bookends

By Cindy Stanley, Library Staff
Banks Public Library

The library will host a Bookmaking Workshop on Saturday, April 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During the workshop, calligrapher and Fulbright Scholar Coleen Cavin will lead participants through the process of making their own 5-inch x 7-inch hardbound book to use as a journal or sketchbook. The workshop is free and all materials are provided. Participation is limited to 30 so register early by calling 503-324-1382. This program is made possible through a grant sponsored by the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The National Endowment for the Arts, Washington County Cooperative Library System, and the Friends of the Banks Library.

Mark your calendars now for the annual Banks Library Plant and Book sale scheduled for Saturday, April 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The plant sale will feature shrubs, perennials, annuals, small trees, vegetable starts and herbs. Local nurseries as well as your neighbor's garden make these featured items available. Come early for the best selection. Inside, in the library community room, the annual book sale will offer a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction used books for all ages.

Adults will find the Library shelves brimming with bestsellers, new books and favorite authors. The long-awaited release of a new Rosamunde Pilcher novel comes to us in *Winter Solstice*. In her new novel, Pilcher unites five very different people ranging in age from the teens to mid-sixties; each coming to terms with their own challenges and losses. Through this diverse set of characters, the reader will be reminded that friendship, compassion, loyalty and love can come together and renew us all – even during winter's darkest hours.

Also new is *1st to Die* by James Patterson, best-selling author of *Kiss the Girls* and *Roses are Red*. Four women friends come together in this powerful thriller to stop a killer who has been stalking newlyweds in San Francisco. Their commitment to this task requires them to step outside the boundaries of their individual professions and pursue the case on their own as the Women's Murder Club. Fans of crime thrillers, don't want to miss this fast-paced, sensational kick-off to a new series by James Patterson.

Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter* combines past and present in this story of American-born Ruth Young's search into the truth about her mother's childhood in China. She is stunned to discover that with the nurturing care of a famous bonesetter's daughter, her mother, Lu-Ling, dared to set her will – as a mere woman – against Chinese honor and tradition to protect

what she loved most.

The Library also has a fascinating new book that will appeal to quilters. Local artist and author, Diane Phalen, has donated a copy of her book *Diane Phalen Quilts: 10 Projects to Celebrate the Seasons*. This beautifully illustrated book includes not only complete instructions and material lists, but also stories about the people and events that inspired each quilting pattern.

Other popular new titles in our fiction collection include *Edge of Danger* by Jack Higgins, *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Circle of Three* by Patricia Gaffney, plus many more! Please come browse.

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 monthly activity that's just in time for spring-cleaning is Recycle Saturday. 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, April 14th is Recycle Saturday for Banks. Bring all those unwanted materials to the SWATCO Service Yard on Sellers Road between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friendly library volunteers identified by their new bright-orange vests will be there to assist you.

A summer of reading fun is in store for all kids who participate in the 2001 Summer Reading Program at the Banks Public Library. "Read a Wild Tale" will launch readers on a journey to the unknown, and sign-ups have already begun. 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. Besides 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.

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.wccclib.or.us.

Letters to the Editor

Read a newspaper. Learn. Plant a tree.

To the Editor:

So many of us read through *The INDEPENDENT* twice a month, but I can't help but wonder how many readers there are out there like me. I guess I'm a skimmer. I love the small town feel of the paper, and can't help but read the police and sheriff's report. It is kind of nice to know what's going on in your community. I also read a lot of the articles, but must admit that if there are strange and unknown words (to me), I quickly lose interest. Words like anadromous, salmonid and riparian. Soon, I realized that the articles I was skipping were those of *Ike Says*, and all the articles about the Nehalem Watershed Council. I figured that if I didn't understand the lingo, the subject had nothing useful to do with my life.

Wrong! I moved to Vernonia because I love the wildlife, the forests and rivers and streams. Sadly, I was ignorant to what I

was missing in those articles, because they are all about what I am all about.

If I had just read a little further before I gave up, I'd have realized that not only were the articles interesting, but that, through the watershed council, I could have volunteered my time and efforts to help preserve one of Oregon's greatest resources.

Through a stroke of luck, I was placed as office help at the Watershed Council, and now I know what all those strange words mean. I'm truly sorry that I didn't get involved sooner. If you love rivers and wildlife as much as I do, please keep an eye out for these articles.

Volunteer. Plant a tree. In doing so you can help restore healthy SALMONID populations, by restoring the RIPARIAN areas along the river. (This is the natural vegetation that follows the river). This will create not only a healthier river, but also help lower water temperature in the summer and create deeper pools so native

salmon can make their way upstream to spawn, like all ANADROMOUS life.

I'm just a nature lover who happens to do office work for the watershed, but you can bet that I'll be there for the next planting, and I hope to see you. Thank you.

Jodee Miner
Vernonia

Trolley Buses could provide local transit

To the Editor:

Recently, when talking with a friend about Vernonia's lean toward a tourism-based economy, we also discussed parking problems.

He suggested a scheduled Trolley Bus system that could run routes throughout the Vernonia area, allowing people to get from point A to point B in a rather stylish fashion. This could not only help decrease traffic in town, but allow more parking access for visitors.

It would also add a touch of the "old days" to our city with a

Salem Scene

By Rep. Elaine M. Hopson
Second District

As we near what is probably about the midpoint of the session, the budget continues to take center stage, with vigorous efforts to fully fund services to seniors, public safety and, as always, education at all levels. Budget concerns are so great that several budgets have been put on "hold" even after going through the scrutiny of respective committees. For example, the Community College, Workforce Development and Oregon Student Assistance Commission budgets were heard in the Education Ways and Means Committee and on the day each was to be passed, it was put on hold.

Now we are dealing with the extremely complicated Higher Education budget. Two factors impact this budget in addition to normal increases. First, implementation of the Resource Allocation Model (RAM), a method for allocating dollars to follow students to their schools of choice, is just getting started and is in need of monitoring and adjustment.

Second is the request by the business community, the Oregon University System (OUS), and the Governor to allocate dollars toward development of a Biotechnology program at Oregon Health Sciences University and an increase for OSU's engineering program to bring it up to a world class level. In addition, monies have been included to start an OUS campus in Central Oregon.

Every ten years after the national census information is available, the country goes through a process of "redistricting" whereby federal and state legislative districts are redesigned to more accurately represent the population. Because of the increase in Oregon in general and in some areas in particular (such as Washington County) the number of House districts will be increased. This is of importance to us in District 2 because we have grown enough that we need to pick up over 3,000 citizens as does District 1.

Meetings have been set up around the state to listen to the constituents in affected areas. Every move in one District causes a change in adjoining Districts so you can see what a

complicated, involved process it is. As we move through it, I will keep you informed as to its impact on us.

Power de-regulation is of great importance to all residents. Although SB1149 was passed last session outlining a plan for de-regulation, concerns are being expressed about its implementation. Oregon's law is not the same as the one adopted in California and we will be able to avoid some of the problems they are facing. However, there is a strong move to postpone implementation in order to address concerns. The energy crisis cannot be directly attributed to deregulation, but it makes very clear that we need a great deal of information in order to limit the escalating costs of power.

The House passed a Patients' Bill of Rights this week, protecting the rights of HMO patients to be involved in their own medical decisions. The bill addresses problems of denials of coverage, referrals, continuity of care, and protections from misrepresentation.

After several weeks of visits around the state with seniors and disabled folks, the task force on "Funding for Seniors and Disabled" recommended the following funding: \$13.7 million for Project Independence, \$12.1 million to fund levels 15 through 17 services, restoration of \$8 million for community-based care facilities, increased allocation of up to \$14.6 million to maintain nursing care facility services at current levels, and an additional \$921,000 to provide improved senior transportation services. The recommendations were strongly supported by all of us on the Task Force, reflecting the testimony we heard across the state. Now the challenge will be to find the money to support our recommendations.

As always, keep in touch. I read every e-mail and letter and receive your phone messages to my office or the Legislative Center.

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vehicle which, though very common in the early to mid 1900's, has been replaced with the boring looking and uncomfortable mass transit buses you see in the valley.

Another person suggested that I check with folks who commute to work daily and get feedback as to whether they would prefer to ride an old style Trolley bus down to a point in the valley, or over the hill to St. Helens/Scappoose, where they could transfer to the existing transit system in those areas.

Not only would this save wear and tear on your vehicle, it would also allow you to enjoy your morning/evening beverage, newspaper, etc. while be-

ing "chauffeured" in a very stylish "blast from the past."

Internet research indicates that a lot of communities around the country are either replacing, or increasing their old, boring-looking fleets with this form of comfortable, eye pleasing transportation.

Wilsonville, Oregon City and Estacada, to name a few, are already running these buses with very positive results, both commercially and aesthetically. One person I spoke with said that people actually come to their town specifically to ride on one of the Trolley Buses.

So I am asking for your input as to whether you feel Trolley

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