

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

As summer approaches each year, the dilemma arises concerning the importance to the community of a library-sponsored summer reading program and whether it is worth the extra effort it takes for the volunteers and staff. Just look at the faces of the audience watching the marionette show held in June and pictured in the last issue of *The Independent* and judge for yourself whether this is a worthwhile project. This picture represents not only the number and age range of participants, but reflects the wonder, joy and excitement that is being experienced. The marionette show was the publicized event sponsored by the Oregon Library Association and a large audience was anticipated, so it has been a *huge* (in more ways than one) and pleasant surprise that attendance at the weekly craft/activity/story sessions conducted by volunteers has also been very successful. To date, some of the volunteers have included Torie Clement demonstrating horse care and riding; Eleanor Thompson, Duke Gortler and Bob Wiley playing some old-time music; Doreen Buchan with helpers Adam Buchan, Bud Normand and Travis Baker directing a leather stamping activity; Orissa Burghard overseeing crafts; and Heidi and Dylan Burch leading outside games. Because the number of youngsters attending has been large, groups have been created and alternated among the three activities presented each Thursday afternoon. Remaining activities include the following:

Thursday, July 19

1 p.m., library – crafts/story/activity

7 p.m., Anderson Park – songs & cookout (Pre-sign up is required.)

Thursday, July 26

1 p.m., library – story/bike rodeo (Bring own bike)

7 p.m., library – Native American presentation by Bill White Eagle Wilson

Thursday, August 2

1 p.m., library – story/crafts (in preparation for Jamboree)

The reptile presentation by Mary Esther Hart this past week was enjoyed by more than 100 adults and children; it was especially wonderful that so many parents attended with their children. Don't forget the Native American presentation on July 26, and plan on attending this with

your children also. Bill White Eagle Wilson was here about four years ago and he is very interesting and entertaining.

Keep in mind that these activities would not have been possible if the new library had not been built and if the City did not continue to fund the summer reading program. It wouldn't hurt to express your thoughts about the library and its activities to City Council members and City employees.

While the focus has been on youngsters this summer, adults have not been forgotten. LV Schoonover has installed an instructional computer program on library computers. Anyone wishing to acquaint themselves with Microsoft Word, Excel or other aspects of computer use may now do so.

Whoopee! With the beginning of a new fiscal year, new books are once again being added to the collection. These include *Dark Hollow* by John Connolly, *Leap of Faith* by Danielle Steel, *Dead North* by Sue Henry, and *Writ of Execution* by Perri O'Shaughnessy. Two new novels that should be of special interest in the Pacific Northwest are *K Falls* by Skye Kathleen Moody and *A River Out of Eden* by John Hockenberry. These are both mysteries involving ecological conflicts of the Columbia River and surrounding areas. Oprah's latest recommendation, and another new acquisition is entitled *Cane River*. Lalita Tademy is the author of this riveting family saga that chronicles four generations of women born into slavery along the Cane River in Louisiana. *Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail* and *The Johnstown Flood* are the latest non-fiction acquisitions.

Last, but not least, be sure to notice the bark dust around the library. This was made possible by a SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) grant and by a donation, specified for this purpose, to the Friends of the Library. Don't forget to support the Friends of the Library and their book sale to be held Saturday, August 4th, at the old library site, 919 Bridge Street.

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

Letters to the Editor

Don't save water by banning car washes

To the Editor:

If the City wishes to prohibit washing cars with city water, that would cause a whole lot of dirty cars, and save a little water. But to eliminate carwash fundraisers, and ask the volunteer firefighters to limit their use would only transfer the spigot from which the water comes, since most of those cars will be washed anyway.

Why pick on firefighters? The group which donates so much of their time and energy to making Vernonia a safer place to be.

Frazier Rohm
Vernonia

El Niño caused fish decline, not humans

To the Editor:

The fish are back! Best return of Columbia River salmon and steelhead in recorded history. Both the Cowlitz and Sandy Rivers had millions of smelt this spring. All coast streams have heavy runs of salmon, steelhead and sea run trout.

For years, environmentalists have blamed the farmer, the logger, the fisherman, the rancher, for the decline in fish population. We now know for certain the blame belongs elsewhere. Without question, the warming of ocean waters by El Niño was the problem. The water has now cooled and is allowing the fish to return in a normal cycle.

Given this information, society should apologize to these folks "Big Time" for the harassment they have endured. They should be commended for providing food, clothing and housing to this nation in spite of the environmental agenda.

Perhaps, on behalf of society, your newspaper would like to join with the other editors to print an apology, front page please!

Derl Roberts
Vernonia

Robbie was a light shining the way

To the Editor:

I wanted to say goodbye to Robert Grant (Robbie) Baska publically. Robbie, you were the light, the beacon that brightened people lives. You touched people's hearts with your wonderful smile. You were such a great kid. Your belief in God shone through in all you did.

Friends always meant a lot to you. I have seen you go the extra mile for them, even when it was a little unwise for you to

do so. That was you and your heart surrounding everyone, protecting everyone, helping those in need, always.

I saw you grow from a little boy to a man. As your Sunday school teacher, I knew you had a personal relationship with the Lord. I also knew you could be an imp. No one ever said God didn't have a sense of humor. We had so many discussions in those days on the back step of the old Baptist Church. We talked of what was beyond and you were convinced there was more to look forward to. We talked of you as a mighty warrior fighting the Lord's battles and you puffed up your chest and would march around!

As your helper teacher in school, I knew you were blessed with a wonderful capacity for knowledge and you applied yourself. Even then, you were willing to help others so they might understand the lesson as you did.

As your friend, I always looked forward to your great hugs! I saw your smile warm and melt many a heart, young and old. I saw the look of determination while playing basketball and football, the look of joy while winning and the disappointment of losing. Still, you ministered to others, whatever the circumstance. I am privileged to have known you and loved you as one of my own kids.

So, Robbie, this isn't goodbye, merely I will see you later. You have enriched all of our lives with your presence. Keep your wonderful light shining bright to lead the way home for others.

I Love You, Kiddo. God Bless.

Barb Ervin
Vernonia

Early support for Stein for governor

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Beverly Stein for Governor. Stein is the positive, effective woman who served as CEO for Multnomah County for eight successful years. She is experienced and tested running the state's third largest government, and she has a proven record of results.

While other candidates are still testing the water to see what they want to do, Beverly has jumped in wholeheartedly with an intention to win. There are over 1,500 volunteers who believe in Beverly Stein's honesty, enthusiasm, energy and ability to work successfully with all people working now in almost every county in the state to let people know about Beverly and her proven capabilities.

These are the reasons why I support Beverly Stein and believe she is the best choice to be our next Governor.

Anne Splane Phillips
Astoria

More Letters on page 13

Letters to the Editor

July 4th festivities are community effort

To the Editor:

What a wonderful 4th of July—a little cool, as usual. Our parade started off at 7:30, led by our fire trucks clearing the way. Cub Scout Pack 201, carried the flags, followed by Uncle Sam (April Buckner) and all the children dressed in red, white and blue. We thought it was a wonderful parade with all the entries.

We would like to thank several groups for their help. First of all, to Pat and Darlene Knight, of Lew's Place, for the spaghetti dinner with all proceeds going to the fireworks fund. Thank you to the Vernonia Fire Department for entering their trucks in the parade and to Metro West Ambulance for joining in. Thank you to both departments for being at the school grounds for the fireworks.

Thanks to Kathy Brekken and her crew of Tim Bamburg, Donald Gutman, Matt Poetter, Luke Heckathorn, Jessie Borders, Ben Davis, Tim Davis, Jessica Weller, Pheeni Moore, Darrel Wolfe, Tracie Wolfe and

Greg Schaumburg for setting up and firing the fireworks. A special thank you to Paul Epler for all the help he gives me, making sure I've done it right and everything is ready to go. They all did a wonderful job.

Thank you to those who furnished us with a storage place for our fireworks ahead of time. Thank you to the Police Department for their help and support, the city crew for putting out the traffic barriers, the school for the use of the grounds, The Independent for the nice ads about the 4th of July activities and last, but not least, the Cub Scouts for cleaning up the grounds and downtown the next day.

Thank you to all the organizations, businesses and individuals for their support with money donations (see ad for list of donors). We fell a little short this year, but without your help, we wouldn't be able to have the fireworks.

There have been some questions raised about who we let have stands for selling goodies on the school grounds. We would like to tell you why we let these two groups be

there. The Booster Club sponsored the fireworks before Vernonia Pride took them over and now the money they raise from their sales goes back into the community. The Cub Scouts are an organization that also puts their time and energy back into our community. Both organizations also donate to the fireworks fund. Thanks to both of these groups for their support.

We would like to thank the people who did not bring their own fireworks to the school grounds, where so many people had gathered. There are always a few people who think we don't mean them.

Vernonia Pride feels we all had a great 4th of July. Thank you to the community for your support. This is a great community of volunteers. Thanks

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.