

## Between the Bookends

By Cindy Stanley, Library Assistant  
Banks Public Library

The "Cultural Pass to Adventure" program is back for a second great year, thanks to the generosity of the following sponsors: Banks Pharmacy, Banks Chamber of Commerce, Big Horn Logging, Brown Derby Restaurant, City of Banks Tree Board, Gookin Plumbing, the Linus Hermens family, and the North Plains Chamber of Commerce. The program allows library patrons to reserve free admittance passes to cultural institutions. Passes are again available for the Children's Museum, the Portland Art Museum, the Japanese Garden, the World Forestry Center, the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and the Washington County Museum. This year we've added two new partners, the Portland Chinese Garden and the Oregon Historical Society. Registration forms and program guidelines are available at the library. Sign up now for a great summer family activity!

New additions to the Banks Library collection worth noting include Jacquelyn Mitchard's new novel, *A Theory of Relativity*. This is a gripping story of a family struggling to survive their sorrow over the loss of two family members by devoting themselves heart and soul to the care of the one-year-old child who was left behind by the tragedy. Mitchard's first novel, *The Deep End of the Ocean*, launched Oprah's Book Club and is also available at the Banks Library.

*Priestess of Avalon* is the long-awaited epic in the *Mists of Avalon* saga by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Combining myth, magic and romance, this enchanting story follows British princess Eilan - known to the Romans as Helena - from

maiden to mother to wisewoman through both joy and loss. Experience the unfolding of one woman's role in the making of history.

Banks Public Library also serves the community's many commuters with a variety of books on tape. A new addition to our collection is the unabridged version of David Gutterson's *East of the Mountains*. Gutterson, the author of the best-seller *Snow Falling on Cedars*, tells the story of Ben Givens, a terminally ill retired doctor who has chosen to end his own life in order to spare himself and his family from suffering. When Ben sets out from home with his two hunting dogs he does not intend to return. He also does not intend to be caught up in a series of interwoven events that take him through his boyhood home of western Washington state on a journey of personal discovery.

*The Bronze Horseman* by Paullina Simons is another notable addition. This heart wrenching love story is set in the city of Leningrad, Russia, during the German invasion of World War II. Tatiana Metanova's heart is drawn to Red Army soldier Alexander Belov, but she learns that this is the same man her sister loves. Within the pages of this book you will find the terror of war, the unimaginable heartbreak of losing all you hold dear, and the nobility and sacrifice of two heroic lovers.

**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.wccs.lib.or.us.

## Letters to the Editor

you, would you? While you're at it, if you see any of the board officers (Pastor Joel Stith, Mr. Bill Yeo and Mrs. Sandy DeWeber), it would be good to thank them, too. I will draw greatly from their knowledge and experience, I'm sure, and look forward to working with them.

I love Vernonia and I believe you do, too. I have found Vernonians to be a caring and generous people. Through your help and donations to Vernonia Cares, you demonstrate the truth that, "Friends who care, share." I look forward to your continued support as I help serve this community.

Sandy Welch  
Vernonia

The property was fenced and gated in 1911. This past year, a new gate was installed and funds are now being raised to replace the old fence. A small volunteer group is working with the Cemetery Beautification Committee.

If you are interested in helping, a donation may be taken or sent to the Vernonia City Hall and designated for the Pioneer Cemetery. Any help will be appreciated and put to use to maintain this historic cemetery.

Ellen Meyer  
Ethel Blackburn  
Ralph & Carolyn Keasey  
Vernonia

## Visual screening a help for many kids

To the Editor:

When we received our fifth grade daughter's end-of-year report card from Washington Elementary School, the envelope was fat with 2001 Oregon Statewide Assessment Reports, her Progress Report and a Visual Screening Results Report. This letter is regarding the Visual Screening.

We have two daughters, Elise, whose report we received, and Pearcia, a senior at Western Oregon University next term. Pearcia graduated from Vernonia High School as a National Honor Society member with great aspirations toward a college education and a bright future. We knew from experience that her work at VHS did not come easily.

"I JUST DON'T GET IT!" was the frustrating cry our family heard many times in our kitchen, late at night, as she struggled with an assignment, usually with her in tears. We knew Pearcia had set a very high standard for herself. We believed she was over-preserving herself and would tell her to just do her best work and be satisfied with her effort. She got an "A" for effort from us!

These late night sessions were frequent and they concerned us, but we simply could not find a way to help her. She could read, we got her corrective lenses after having her "vision" checked, but this did little for her comprehension.

Pearcia went off to U of O and promptly started failing any class with a high reading content. Her first term was disastrous. She requested help from the disabilities department, but she had no medical diagnosis to justify it. She was stuck, and our honor student did not want to continue at college without being able to meet the standards she had set for herself.

Her optometrist suggested a "vision screening." I was lost. Hadn't he just given her an eye exam? Yes, but the test he was referring to had nothing to do with the health of her eyes or her ability to see; it was strictly about how her eyes worked together. I was introduced to

Please see page 10

## Forum helps keep focus on issues

To the Editor:

I would like to thank *The Independent* for providing a forum to focus public attention on local conservation issues.

The way we treat our environment, our home really, is an indication that we are either a maturing civilization evolving toward sustainability or a declining one based on the plunder of natural resources.

Thanks also to improved ocean conditions, the endangered species act, the governor's Oregon plan for salmon cooperating landowners, much money and thousands of volunteer hours, salmon returning to their native streams to spawn will find them healthier than when they left four short years ago.

Dennis A. Nelson  
Vernonia

## Pioneer Cemetery in need of donations

To the Editor:

One hundred-one years ago, William Mellinger, Sr. donated a small piece of his property to establish the local Pioneer Cemetery. According to Columbia County historian, Lesta Ganner, the balance of the cemetery property was donated in 1916, by Charles Bergerson. This cemetery is located about a mile from Vernonia on Keasey Road.

The names of many of those who struggled in those early days to establish and keep the Vernonia area a thriving community are displayed on the stones spread around the grounds.

The care of the cemetery has always been voluntary and the responsibility for this care has passed through several organizations and is now held by the City of Vernonia. The rough, hilly terrain is a challenge to workers, but in the past few years it has been mowed and trimmed, so on Memorial Day it shows that there are still those who care. All of the burial plots have been sold, so there is no income from the cemetery.

## Ike Says...

From page 2

oohed and awed at the awesome sight. The girls were less impressed, except with the rock wall next to the sheer drop into the volcanic basin, which they wanted to keep walking. This death-defying act made me totally forget to wonder what it would be like to kayak around Wizard Island, so the girls probably saved me from being tossed over the edge myself. The rest of our day was spent on the road, traveling to the Summer Lake hot springs. I thought the girls might curl up their noses at the rustic surroundings on the edge of the desert but, to my surprise, they wanted to stay longer and swim in the indoor pool. We spent the night in one of the rental travel trailers available at the hot springs.

After a hearty breakfast at Paisley, we headed south to Valley Falls, then north along Lake Abert on Highway 395. The girls were getting tired of driving each day, so we bypassed the planned trip to Glass Butte and headed straight to John Day and a good night's sleep in a motel. Our attraction at John Day was the Kam Wah Chung museum, which gives an amazing glimpse into the lives of two Chinese immigrants of the late 1800's.

We toured the museum on the morning of our seventh day, then headed east to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City. At first, the girls were not thrilled at the thought of another museum, but they soon were engrossed in the displays. Our spot for the night ended up be-

ing at an Idaho Power campground just downstream of the Bronlee Dam on the Snake River. Dinner was abruptly interrupted by yellow jackets, which seemed abundant in the east side of Oregon this year.

Day eight saw us traveling to the Snake River Overlook, the town of Joseph, Wallowa Lake and Lehman Hot Springs. Unfortunately, the Lehman Hot Springs were closed, as they are every Monday and Tuesday and the girls decided that a nice motel with a pool at Pendleton was more desirable than camping out on the middle fork of the John Day River.

Anxious to get home, the girls steered our course back to Vernonia on day nine. While there were moments during the trip, I am sure the girls will remember this trip for the rest of their lives. They got glimpses of some of Oregon's most spectacular treasures. I, once again, got to fill the role of a Dad, a role that has been lacking in my life, and yes, Donna and I are still engaged.

Get out and explore your world. Memories are yours for the making.

Izaak Walton League Nehalem Valley  
Chapter meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome.  
For meeting location, call (503) 429-7193.

## Letters to the Editor

### Rummage sale funds will go to help others

To the Editor:

On behalf of Vernonia Cares Food Bank, I wish to thank those who helped make the Vernonia Cares Rummage Sale, held July 20 - 22, a success. Many volunteers helped prepare and run the sale. You worked hard and long, and you are appreciated. Thank you! I also wish to thank Glen Purvee for the use of his building, and Synda Allen, representing the Vernonia Cemetery Monument

Fund, as the co-sponsor of this event. It couldn't have happened without you.

There were many customers who came to the sale and purchased items. Thank you for supporting us. Vernonia Cares profited \$1,070.83, which will help supply emergency food for many people in our community.

There still are many excellent rummage items left, and we hope the Boy Scouts will do well with their sale during Jamboree. I understand that they have even more merchandise

to add, so don't miss their sale!

I would like to take this opportunity, also, to personally thank my predecessor, Lisa Edgar, for her capable and caring leadership. I know it was a hard decision to resign from Vernonia Cares in order to have more time for her family and also for their pet store. During Lisa's four years as director of Vernonia Cares Food Bank, she provided an excellent model for me to follow. I appreciate Lisa, and I hope you do, too. Drop by her pet store, Creatures, and tell her thank