

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

Early April promises to be an exciting time for library patrons, young and old(er). Saturday, April 6, at 3:00 p.m., will be a first in Vernonia's library. An author from the Pacific Northwest, Spike Walker, will be relating some of his Alaskan adventures as well as discussing research and writing techniques. Walker is the author of *Working on the Edge*, which relates adventures while fishing for king crab on Alaska's high seas, *Nights of Ice*, which tells about survival following shipwrecks in Alaskan waters, and *Coming Back Alive*, which tells the true story of the most harrowing search and rescue mission ever attempted on Alaska's high seas. Copies of these books will be available for anyone wishing to purchase an autographed copy and refreshments will be available. The week of April 14-20 has been designated National Library Week. To help celebrate locally, the Friends of the Library will be sponsoring a presentation by Steve Taylor, a magician and ventriloquist, on Monday, April 15 at 4:00 p.m. Both of these events are free to the public. Attendance at these presentations will help determine whether similar events will be scheduled, so mark those calendars now and plan to attend.

Another project to keep in mind is the book and plant sale to be held during Jamboree. This will again be a fundraiser of the Friends of the Library and they are requesting donations of books, as well as plants. Books may be left at the library and there is still time to stick those starts of plants in pots to have them ready by

early August.

For anyone who missed getting a video of Vernonia's 1996 flood, Ivan Oliver has placed a few in the library for purchase at \$10.00 each. He also donated a circulating copy to the library.

Recent acquisitions include *The Cottage* by Danielle Steel, *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd, *My Happy Life* by Lydia Millet, *Eureka* by William Diehl, *Mercy Among the Children* by David Adams Richards, *Miracle at St. Anna* by James McBride, and *The Summons* by John Grisham. An unabridged copy of *The Summons* has also been added to the library's collection of audiocassettes. George Martin and Lawrence Fick, the authors of *A Road in the Wilderness* (The Salem to Astoria Military Road) have generously donated a copy of their recently published book to the library. For young adults, Mildred Taylor's *The Land* and Polly Horvath's Newberry Honor book, *Everything on a Waffle*, have recently been acquired. New picture books, with a seasonal theme, include *Come Along, Daisy* and *Lettice, the Dancing Rabbit*.

Remember, also, to mark your calendars for the monthly meeting of the Friends of the Library. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library, with the next meeting scheduled for April 2.

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

School board members enjoy student presentations

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with an architect gives the board and the district some protection from liability. Additionally, McClellan told the board that he has been encouraged by the state to apply for special grant funds for school improvement and that an application would be facilitated by having an architect on retainer. McClellan also told the board that the initial report from the recently conducted community survey indicates that the board has more work to do before pursuing another bond election. The board tabled action until the next meeting.

With one position remaining vacant on the school board, chair Carla Strand suggested waiting to fill the vacant position until after the survey results are reviewed and some of the difficult tasks facing the board are accomplished. There has been only one applicant for the position. Directors Jim Krahn and Tim Titus felt that a new member should be appointed as soon as possible, though both acknowledged that a new member will have an extremely difficult time under-

standing the complexity of some situations awaiting decisions. A high turnover rate, with four new directors coming in and two directors leaving since June of 2000, has made it difficult for the board to function in some areas.

Presentations heard

Every year, Lincoln Grade School has a project on the concept of "100" by counting school days until they reach 100 Days of School. As the big day approaches, students begin to assemble their contribution to the 100s Museum, with each student making a collection or creation of 100 objects. Students Bridger Stewart, Hailey Dennis, Alex Chapman, Charlotte and Kaytee Burghard and Taylor Chapman brought their collections to the boardroom and displayed them.

Director Cari Levenseller introduced Patti Dickens-Turk, teacher-coordinator for the youth Transition Program (YTP), a cooperative effort of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Oregon Employment Department and the University of Oregon. The program's goal is to involve the

community in a job-training program that meets the needs of students and employers. Students must apply for the program and accept enrollment on a voluntary basis.

An unanticipated benefit has been the "fill-the-bus" concept. If a YTP student is interested in a particular career, such as law enforcement, YTP will fund a trip to the Oregon Police Academy in Monmouth. Even if only one YTP student is going, the district can "fill-the-bus" with other interested students. Students and parents told of trips to places and events that resulted in positive changes in post-high school plans.

YTP also operates the Print Shop, a business in the high school. Since the Print Shop started operations in December, 2000, it has printed 411,724 copies for the district. YTP students learn job-related skills while working in the Print Shop.

Services to YTP students include a coordinated set of activities that are designed to promote moving from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vo-

Letters to the Editor

Elk ranching is not a "no-risk" operation

To the Editor:

As much as I respect the opinion of Dale Webb's articles and his views on wildlife populations, I must take exception to his (March 6, 2002, "Ike Says...") opinion that the elk ranchers are getting away Scot-free. I have no vested interest in commercial elk ranching, and I fail to see how Mr. Webb can accuse any business on conducting a "no-risk operation". Anyone who has been around any kind of ranch knows that a lot of sweat equity goes into its startup, and like any business startup, it doesn't stop until the operation is sold, or fails. Any way you look at it, the rancher (cattle, sheep, llamas, exotic birds or small animals such as mink or chinchillas, or the attempt to domesticate wildlife such as elk or deer) takes one heck of a chance. Free enterprise does not come cheap. The possible rewards not only benefit the startup owner, but also other businesses and the tax-base in the community. In Mr. Webb's

piece, why doesn't he mention the possibility that the TB could have been introduced by a "wild" elk? Bacteria can travel in both directions.

Typically, Mr. Webb's observations are positive in outlook, especially in the hunting sports and the hazards of over-or-inefficient regulations. If we want to increase our hunting opportunities, then a more sensible alternative might be to restrict or eliminate the elk cow season to increase future elk hunting opportunities. After all, when an elk cow is taken, the hunter also takes its unborn calf. If more calves were born, then a larger number of elk calves will reach maturity. More elk means more hunting. More hunting means more tags. More tags mean more cash flow, and more cash flow means less burden to those taxpayers that don't hunt. To blame a rancher trying to make elk available to either private hunters willing to pay for taking a elk, or to routinely harvest the elk as we now do cattle, just seems unreasonable.

Sincerely,
Roger Grimsrud
Vernonia

Thanks to Hunter Safety teachers

To the Editor:

I would like to say thank you to Jim King and Leonard Simmons for the time and effort they have expended to teach the Hunter Safety Course. This course has been taught for many, many years by local volunteers and they are appreciated.

Melissa Hunt
Vernonia

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.

In other action, the board:

- Accepted the Council Exchange program for inclusion on the list of approved exchange student programs. The policy will also be discussed at the next board meeting.

- Approved contract extension for certified staff, with Director Randy Hansen abstaining.

- Approved using the OSBA Executive Search Service to find an interim superintendent.

- Approved budget adjustment resolutions.