

Letters to the Editor

Vernonia Cares says thanks for the help

To the Editor,

How many ways can I say thanks? Vernonia Cares Food Bank has been helped in so many ways in this past few weeks! As usual, it's been busy as we are your hands extended to this community. Thanks, contributors, for making what we do possible.

During Jamboree, Cares entered a float in the parade. Thanks to my family, for helping decorate it! And thanks, Ashley Murray and Shawn Robertson for riding on the float and handing out the candy during the

parade.

Additional assistance during Jamboree came from the St. Helens Synchro Fire 2002 Summertime Water Show held at Cedar Ridge on Saturday evening. Thanks, Mike, Elin and Alex Hayes for coordinating this enjoyable activity. Thanks, Synchro Fire, for presenting the program! Thanks, Cedar Ridge, for donating the use of the pool. Thanks, sponsors, for your ads purchased in the flyer. All proceeds from the water show were given to the food bank. Many attendees also brought canned food and gave money, too. Thank you all!

Don't miss the "Dare to Care

5K Fun Run/Walk" this Saturday, Aug. 17! Jill Wiseman, and many helpers, have diligently been planning this fun day in Anderson Park. I hope you've seen a poster, flyer, or entry blank about it. Thanks, sponsors, for your financial support! This is also a great way for individuals to donate to the food bank and have a great time while doing so.

Although we hope you'll enter the event, please come and cheer on the participants even if you don't enter. Why not bring the whole family? Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the covered picnic area at

Anderson Park. Registration and information are available at the food bank, or by calling 503-429-1414.

The goal of Vernonia Cares Food Bank, a non-profit organization, is to provide three days worth of emergency groceries, once a month, to needy households in and around Vernonia. Statistics for 2002 show that we've assisted a monthly average of 85 households, containing 249 people (97 of whom were children). Each of those numbers is nearly doubled from this time last year.

Now, more than ever, we need to be willing to share what we have so others will not go hungry. Many of you already give to Vernonia Cares. Thank you! For those of you who haven't yet given, won't you please consider a generous tax-deductible gift to help the less fortunate in our community? I am assured you will—because I know that "Vernonia Cares."

Gratefully,

**Sandy Welch, Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank**

Local business was great aid to travelers

To the Editor:

We wanted to drop you a line and let you know how much we appreciate all D & R Towing did in helping us get back on the road again. They really did go the extra mile.

We all were very tired and emotionally upset after the truck fire. They made us feel safe and at home.

We enjoyed the town of Vernonia. Everyone was so friendly. We hope to be able to come back again.

We are writing a letter to AAA to let them know what great service D & R gave us.

Take care and thanks again.

**Doug and Sheri Hatch
Murray, Utah**

Car Club thanks all involved in cruise in

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Nehalem Valley Speed and Beauty Car Club members, I would like to extend a gracious thank you to all of our entrants, sponsors, friends and families for the success of the 10th Annual Jamboree Cruise In, August 3,

at Vernonia's 46th Annual Friendship Jamboree. This year, we had 284 entrants to our show. This show would not be possible without all of your generous support and participation.

I hope that you all enjoyed the show and had a chance to listen to the Boomer Band and the Legendary Boomettes, featuring Lee Garrett. While listening to the band, checking out all of those great cars, I hope you were able to enjoy one of the Booster Club's great burgers! A special thank you to all of you who helped at the booster wagon.

This year, we had 49 trophies, with three ways to win. First, the Class Awards that were voted on by the entrants and calculated by a computer program. Second, we offered 10 special awards selected by our Judges and last, we offered our Sponsor's Choice Awards (Sponsors attended the show and selected their favorite car or truck).

Two additional winners this year were Gerald Blume who won the Distance Award, driving from Fruitland, Idaho, in his 1955 Chev P/U, and the Beach Barons, who won the Club Affiliation Award by bringing 15 vehicles to this year's show!

**Glenda DeLemos
Nehalem Valley Speed &
Beauty Car Club
Vernonia**

County official won't respond writer says

To the Editor:

Last week, in a letter to the editor of the South County Spotlight, Eric Jenson from Scappoose told of his account with our County Commissioner, Rita Bernhard, and how she did not want to respond to his request that she begin courting a large high tech Danish firm deciding on a location between Portland, Longview, Vancouver or, with some encouragement, Columbia County. This firm will be hiring more than 1000 employees, but not here.

He (Jenson) said we have double-digit unemployment and a depression in Columbia County. Thank you, Mr. Jenson. You've hit the nail on the head. I sat through two meetings with the mute Ms. Bernhard, when asking for landowner rights. I didn't feel that our issues were

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



This Monday, with its 90+ degree weather would have been a perfect evening to take advantage of the library's air-conditioning. The library will be continue to be open from 7-9:00 p.m. on Mondays through the month of August as a trial to see if

this is something of which residents would like to take advantage. Monday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. will also be the time when youngsters who have met their reading goals will be recognized and rewarded. Certificates and prizes will be awarded; refreshments will be available, and Muggins the Clown will be here to provide some balloon fun. This will bring to a conclusion another successful Summer Reading Program. Youngsters, parents, grandparents, and other community members who participated in the program deserve many thanks and should feel gratified that they have read and encouraged reading throughout the summer.

Within the week, residents will see a new look to the area between Wilcox & Flegel and the library and to the library's parking area. Library patrons **must** enter the library's parking lot from Weed Avenue (**Not** from Maple) and exit only onto Maple. Be prepared for this change in traffic pattern in the library's parking area.

Two new computers, awarded by the Gates Foundation, have been ordered and L.V. Schoonover is preparing the library for its Internet service via radio connection. With these computers and this radio connection, library patrons will be able to access the Internet on any one of three computers at the same time. This should be a beneficial service to the community and the two new computers will also have some wonderful new software of which the public may take advantage. More information on these computers, their capabilities, and their software will be available shortly.

The book sale and raffle held by The Friends of the Library during Jamboree was another successful summer event. The Friends would like to thank everyone for supporting this fundraiser,

the proceeds of which will all be used to benefit the library. The next meeting of the Friends will be Tuesday, October 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Recent acquisitions for adults include *Her Father's House* by Belva Plain, *Unfit to Practice* by Perri O'Shaughnessy, *Red Rabbit* by Tom Clancy, *Stone Kiss* by Faye Kellerman, *The Art of Deception* by Ridley Pearson, and *Dead Midnight* by Marcia Muller. *First Day, Hooray!*, *Miss Malarkey Doesn't Live in Room 10*, and *If You Take a Mouse to School* are some of the new books for youngsters as they begin a new school year.

The book that I most enjoyed reading this month is *True to Form* by Elizabeth Berg. In this novel, Ms. Berg describes a summer in the life of 13-year-old Katie Nash. It is 1961 and Katie, the daughter of a remarried widower, craves popularity, a great summer job, and a direct line to the local DJ to make requests. Instead, her father has arranged for her to baby sit three neighborhood boys and to help take care of an elderly neighbor lady. Katy spends her free time with her one true friend, Cynthia, until she is attends a party with some *popular* girls and jeopardizes her friendship with Cynthia in an attempt to be accepted by them. That is where Katy's life takes a turn and she starts to realize what is important and how she is going to keep the important things around her. This is Ms. Berg's third novel featuring Katie Nash. The first two, *Joy School* and *Durable Goods* were just as entertaining, and *True to Form* left me wanting to read even more about Katie Nash and what life has in store for her.

The next meeting of the book discussion group will be Tuesday, August 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Even if you haven't read the books being discussed at this time, you are invited to attend and to help choose and read the next selection. This is a very informal group of individuals who just like to read and to share their thoughts about reading with others.

**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.
Phone: (503) 429-1818**