

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



When Multnomah County was attempting to pass their operating levy this past Fall, an editorial in *The Oregonian* quoted focus groups run by the library levy campaign as follows: "...bad times are exactly when the library proves its worth. The more

that people feel down on their luck, the more they're drawn to the library for escapism on the cheap, self-improvement and the serenity and machinery of a home office without the price tag. Instead of buying magazines and CDs and renting movies, hard-up families can check out these amusements for free. Job seekers can convert the library into their personal turn-around station, brushing up on skills, educating themselves about new careers and researching openings on the Internet. **Citizens who see the library as one of an array of rival pleasures during good times see it as a necessity, plain and simple, during bad times.**"

No one wants to see "bad times," but the reality is that these statements reflect the trend here in Vernonia, as well. All of the services and materials that the library has to offer have seen increased usage. The Internet is in use nearly all the time, often with patrons waiting for turns; computers are being used for word processing and résumés; patrons are reading, studying, and relaxing in pleasant and warm surroundings. The article further stated that circulation in Multnomah County's libraries had increased 15 percent last year and that 68 percent of the county's residents were registered as library patrons. Circulation in Vernonia increased 21 percent for the months of July-November 2002, over the same five months in 2001, and there are presently 1,446 registered patrons. We are so lucky to have this wonderful, patron-friendly facility to serve the public of Vernonia in "bad times" and in good. It is **your** library. Use the suggestion box if there are further services or materials that you would like to see implemented and a sincere effort will be made to that end.

Attendance at the pre-school story time has

increased this year. At 10:30 each Monday morning stories are read, after which a craft or activity takes place. This is a good time for parents and children to interact with each other while having some fun. The after-school Reading Enrichment Program also continues to be successful and fun. Youngsters read aloud from a selection of stories and books, after which they participate in a related craft. This is under the direction of Trish Maldonado and takes place on Mondays at 3:30 on days that school is in session. (The Christmas tree in the library's entryway was decorated by youngsters from these two programs and is adorned mostly with ornaments constructed by these youngsters or those participating in previous programs sponsored by the library.)

The St. Helens Book Shop has once again supplied a nice selection of books, which may be purchased (adopted) as Christmas gifts for the library. Prices, reflecting a 20 percent discount, are displayed on each book and range from \$3.19 to \$20.80. These will be waiting to be adopted through Christmas, after which they will be available for circulation.

New acquisitions include *The Christmas Shoes* by Donna VanLiere, *Kitchen Privileges* by Mary Higgins Clark, *That Old Ace in the Hole* by Annie Proulx, *Hornet Flight* by Ken Follett, *Answered Prayers* by Danielle Steel and *From a Buick 8* by Stephen King. Be sure to check out the nice selection of audio and videocassettes as well as the newest issues of favorite periodicals.

From the library and "anonymous" comes the following wish for this season:

*Merry Christmas to friends!  
Merry Christmas to foes!  
The world's bright with joy, so  
Forget all your woes.  
The earth's full of beauty, of  
Love and good cheer.  
Merry Christmas to all and a  
Happy New Year!*

**Vernonia Public Library:** 701 Weed Ave.m  
**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) 324-1382

## Career Development Program used as example of needed policies

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periences within the existing instructional program at each grade level.

Before entering high school, every student will develop a profile designed to carry him or her through high school and into the first two years of post-high school career development. In the first two years of high school, students will develop, and revise as necessary, their PEP and work to complete the Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM). Students will also begin to experience activities that connect academic content to real-life applications, through a variety of programs that could include workplace mentoring, workplace simulations, school-based enterprises, structured work experience, on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs and service learning. Students will also begin to amass a portfolio with evidence of knowledge and skills that demonstrate their ability to extend career-related learning to real-life applications.

Juniors and seniors will continue to revise their PEPs and begin work on a Career Learning Project. Students who have not achieved the CIM will receive remediation as needed. After achieving the CIM, students will participate in a Career Learning Project (CLP) that will eventually replace the current Senior Project. The CLP will not be part of the required senior English class. A committee composed of instructors Ward Nelson, Patty Dickens-Turk, Leanne Morlock and Jeff Cheney, and Curricu-

lum Director Robyn Cochran, is working to develop the requirements for the CLP. Completion of CLP will be a part of the requirements for a Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM).

The Career Development Program will be voted on in January, along with other policies presented as part of the consent agenda.

### Auditor's Report

Larry Grant, for Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C., presented the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2002. In his short report, Grant told the board that the audit was completed without qualification and "noted no matter involving internal control and its operation" that would be considered material weaknesses. The district complied in all material respects with the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards.

### Strategic Planning Workshop

The board agreed on an extended January workshop, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to conduct a Strategic Planning session. Funderburg would like to have the board, teachers, classified and supervisory employees, community members and students participate in identifying a vision for the district and identify the district's core values and guiding principles. These principles can then be used to help the district determine best practices to use in teaching, guiding budget decisions, and etc.

### Maintenance Report

Maintenance Supervisor John Lewis reported that supplies had been moved out of the old storage area at WGS and drywall was installed to another storage room, per order of fire marshal. Other maintenance work included the following:

- Refrigeration units were repaired at WGS.
- ADT replaced old sensors in alarms at VHS and Mist, and determined that batteries needed replacement.
- A problem with the chlorinator at Mist was corrected.
- Front lawns and football fields are being aerated with equipment borrowed from the Scappoose School District.

## Letters to the Editor

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kind people and organizations in our community. Without being asked, so many people brought turkeys and all the trimmings, as well as all sorts of other food, to our Center and The Starting Place shelter. Often, they did not want receipts or thanks for their generosity; however, we would like them to know how much we appreciated their help in giving needy families a very happy Thanksgiving. In some cases, it was the only food the families had.

So again, thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. We are grateful to have neighbors and friends like you, at

Thanksgiving time and all year long.

**Karin B. Kaczmarek**  
Program Coordinator  
Columbia County Women's  
Resource Center

### 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.

## Funderburg accepts permanent position as superintendent.

The Vernonia School District Board of Directors has reached agreement with interim Superintendent Mike Funderburg to accept the position on a permanent basis.

At a special meeting on Dec. 18, the board praised the work that Funderburg has done since July 1, when he stepped in as interim superintendent, and said that he had their complete support. Funderburg's salary was set, unanimously, at \$90,000, with a \$700 cap on health insurance and a three percent, or cost of living, increase annually.

Funderburg was honored December 20 at an open house in the District office.



Mike Funderburg