

**Bits & Bites**

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Well, I guess Vernonia is that town in the woods where even the highway doesn't

really count – Why do I say this – Have you been through Banks of late – their street (highway) was started much later than ours and is the same as finished. Cross street joins, centerline, crosswalks and it all looks well put together. Us – we still have spray paint notes – patchy side street joins and no arc lights on the O-A Hill curves. I hope no one falls on the path after dusk – no one would ever see them.

Yes, I took my concerns to the City Council and they did

listen and agreed with several points of concern and they are being addressed. So – don't be a side line griper – Come to a Council meeting and find out what's cookin'.

While I'm at it – why is the 25 mile sign still up at the foot of O-A Hill as you come to Washington Grade School??? Shouldn't there be a 20 mph post at the foot of the hill?? There is one across from the Mini-Mart.

Did you keep up with the doings in town on the 1st and 2nd – Good food and fun and seeing old friends.

How long has it been since you just sat at the lake and stared at the sky?? I got a stiff neck the other sunny day trying to locate the "Call of the Wild Goose." Finally found them just before they faded from view. The way they form and float from one "V" into five or six smaller ones is awe inspiring.

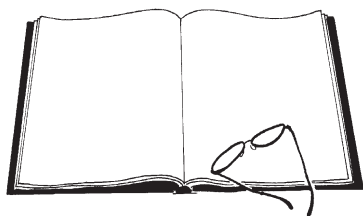
Also – have you noticed the parking lot turning "green." I was not aware that dead dirt and pavement could harbor dormant seed for that many years. Another of God's wonders, unless someone scattered grass seed.

Now – the Senior Center needs HELP. If you have an empty pickup or van, a free afternoon or morning and wish to go somewhere (say to Good Will in Forest Grove) and want to donate your time and gas – they need folks to haul out all the excess clothing and etc. that folks bring in here for sale. They can't keep everything. A note of interest, a gent from Manzanita brought in a pickup load one day and Waste Management thinks it has problems with out of towners, ho, ho. Please, help us help you.

Enjoy the sunshine, fall is here and cold nights are coming.

**Next Literary Arts Series scheduled**

Chris Chester, an electronics technician and writer from Portland, will read from his book, *Providence of a Sparrow*, Wednesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m., in the Columbia Center Auditorium, St. Helens. He will sign books following the reading.



When B fell twenty-five feet from his nest into the life of Chris Chester, the encounter was providential for both of them. They spent hours together, playing games, learning "words" in each other's vocabularies and much more. Chester

ended up turning part of his house into an aviary and adjusting his social life to meet B's demands. This was a small price to pay, though, for the trust and comfort of a twenty-five-gram friend who brought joy and wonder into his life.

Along the way Chester learned a great deal about the natural history of birds, and even more about that maligned avian species, the House Sparrow. Through B and the rest of this unorthodox family, Chester has discovered a renewed capacity for joy and wonder, and an expanded realization of the consciousness and intelligence in living things. Chris Chester's beautiful meditation on life with B is filled with acerbic wit, frequent references to literature both high and low, and genuine reverence for the life around him.

Columbia Center is located

at 375 S. 18th St. in St. Helens. For more information on the Literary Arts Series, call the St. Helens Public Library at 503-397-4544, or St. Helens Book Shop at 503-397-4917. The Literary Arts Series is a collaboration of St. Helens Public Library, Friends of the St. Helens Public Library, St. Helens Book Shop, Historical Society of Columbia County and the Columbia Learning Center. All events are free to the public.

**Upcoming Pacific Univ. events**

October performances and exhibits at Pacific University will include;

- "Glamour Girls", an exhibit of paintings by Jessica Plattner at the Cawein Gallery through October 28.

According to Plattner, the "Glamour Girl" paintings "are about young women faced with contradictory expectations from society."

The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

- Pacific University's Chamber Singers and Symphonic Band will perform a concert on October 15 at 7:30 p.m. in McCready Hall in the Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center.

The Chamber Singers will start with excerpts from Morten Lauridsen's "Les Chansons des Roses." At least three other works will be performed before the closing piece "Dirat-On," which has found favor with audiences worldwide.

British composer Gordon Jacob's "Original Suite for Band" will be the opening piece from the Symphonic Band followed by four other works.

Following the program of the Symphonic Band, the band and the singers will combine to perform "America, the Dream Goes On" by former Boston Pops conductor John Williams.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. Tickets will be available at the door or can be reserved by calling the box office at 503-352-2918.

**Haunted House meeting Oct. 12**

Interested in helping Vernonia put together a Haunted House for Halloween? A meeting of those interested in turning the Grange Hall into a Haunted House will be held Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

Both groups and individuals are encouraged to participate in this community event.



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