

Letters

Generosity shown by Vernonia's citizens

To the Editor:

Once again, Vernonia citizens generously donated all of the turkeys and hams needed for the Vernonia Cares Christmas food boxes. In the aftermath of a year full of natural disasters, our neighbors and friends extended the true spirit of the season and gave locally. This year, 138 Christmas food boxes were distributed to feed 429 people. These numbers are better put in perspective when realizing that 400 people represent 20% of Vernonia's

population. Thank YOU.

Beside turkeys and hams, Vernonia Cares received donations in various ways. Many individuals purchased a holiday food box for \$20.00 through the check stand at Vernonia Sentry. Vernonia Cares has received many direct monetary donations as well as a vast variety of food. Thank YOU everyone!

Randy Parrow at Vernonia Sentry was generous beyond the Saver Shield promotion for turkeys, which allowed [Vernonia Cares] director Sandy Welch to redirect funds for other food items. Thank YOU! Pam and Ginger in the meat department

ordered, stored donated turkeys and hams and even loaded turkeys for transport. Thank YOU! To all of the checkers, thank you for accepting meat and cash donations. It is truly appreciated.

Thanks also go out to Cedar Ridge Sports Camp, Washington Grade School and Bill Yeo for providing freezer storage space. The donation effort would not have been possible without the ability to store all those frozen turkeys. Thank YOU!

We wish to extend a special thanks to the Vernonia Jazzer-cise classes. Instructor Penny

Costley matched each turkey donated by students and won the friendly competition among businesses with a total of 36 turkeys. Thanks to all that participated.

The third annual turkey drive has been a tremendous success. Thank YOU all!

**Pat and Bob Stacklie
Vernonia's Turkey Herders**

Thanks for the great music from students

To the Editor:

I wanted to give music teacher, Mrs. Holce, a round of applause and a note of appreciation for all the beautiful singing and music from all the students at Christmas time. All performances were spectacular and the great opera singing at the high school was magnificent.

Very delighted,
**Virginia Kepner
Vernonia**

Work of many made a festive downtown

To the Editor:

Downtown had a very festive atmosphere for the tree lighting and truck parade.

Although there weren't as many trucks as we anticipated, those that participated were lit to the hilt and looked great. We want to thank all of you who participated and helped in any way. Lee Siebert provided the Christmas tree and the Jr. High class made the decorations.

Here are a few people we owe a big thanks to: Vernonia Realty for allowing us to use their lot year after year and furnishing our electricity, The High School band and Hands on Art for the music, Bill Sword for transporting Mr. and Mrs. Santa, and finally, Larry Snethen and Robyn Bassett for being our Santas.

The truckers in the parade were Bob Baker, Weller and Sons, City of Vernonia, Curls' Transportation, and a group from Jazzercise.

On another note, Vernonia Pride is seeking new members and ideas. Our goal in the beginning was downtown beautification. We feel the improvements made by the City and Vernonia Pride have accomplished our goal. We would now like to focus on the rest of

our city and would welcome suggestions on how we could encourage our residents to take more pride in their homes and neighborhoods.

We would also like to thank Donna Webb for acting as our president for several years. We welcome back Genny Fisher as our new president, who was the founder of Vernonia Pride. We meet the third Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall. We hope to see many new faces at our next meeting on January 19.

Happy Holidays and a great New Year,

**Deloris Webb,
Treasurer
Vernonia Pride**

PEO says "Thanks" for buying wreaths

To the Editor:

Vernonia Chapter BS of PEO wishes to thank The Independent and Vernonia citizens as well as patrons of the Vernonia Christmas Bazaar for their generous support of our annual Christmas Wreath Sale

This sale is the basis for our local group's ability to offer a scholarship to a VHS graduating senior girl each year, as well as to make contributions to other loan and scholarship programs sponsored by the state PEO organization. Considering the present cost of higher education, many young ladies are the beneficiaries of your wreath purchases. Thank You!

**Carol Davis,
Chapter BS President
Barbara Sturdevant,
Press Representative**

Yes, we still have a "Christmas" program

To the Editor:

In the past few weeks I have been talking with many people who live outside of Vernonia about the WGS Christmas program. Most people seem to respond by asking, "Christmas program? You can still call it that? You don't have to call it a holiday or winter program?" And I cheerfully reply, "Yes, we live in Vernonia!" It is so nice to live in a community where we can still do things like have a Christmas program, decorate

Please see page 17

Between the Bookends

By Angie Spiering, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



It is now 2006. Welcome to the New Year. Get the year off to a good start. Join Miss Cathy for Preschool Storytime on Wednesdays at 10:15 am.

The themes for January are:

January 4: Don't Bug Me
January 11: What's In Your Pocket?

January 18: All Things Green
January 25: Happy Hippos

Don't forget about the Cultural Pass Program! Banks has added a new museum to the list. Below is a list of passes that the Banks Public Library has available for check out. You may check out up to two per day. The passes are available for a one day loan period. Our library does accept telephone reservations once you are registered for the program. Each pass has its own rules for use.

- Portland Art Museum
- Oregon Garden
- Children's Museum
- Washington County Museum
- Rice Rock Museum
- Pittock Mansion
- Portland Chinese Garden
- Forestry Center
- Japanese Garden
- Oregon Sports Hall of Fame

The library is preparing for Summer Reading 2006 with a shirt sale. You can pre-order t-shirts in adult, teen and kid sizes. We also have denim shirts available. Please contact us at the library for more information.

We have just received Mississippi Flyway, written by local author Nel Rand. The story, set in 1967 along the banks of the Mississippi River and bird flyway, tells of thirty-one year-old Ellie Moon - recently divorced, hounded by a controlling mother, and haunted by her dead sister Rose - who goes on a road trip with her estranged father, a noted gambler and conman. Follow their adventures as Ellie retrieves dark memories of her childhood that have haunted

her adult life.

Ms. Rand's book will be available for checkout at our library or for purchase at <www.barnesandnoble.com>.

Also, new to our library this month are:

Teacher Man: A Memoir by Frank McCourt. In bold and spirited prose featuring his irreverent wit and heartbreaking honesty, McCourt records the trials, triumphs and surprises he faces in public high schools around New York City. His methods anything but conventional, McCourt creates a lasting impact on his students through imaginative assignments (he instructs one class to write "An excuse note from Adam or Eve to God"), singalongs (featuring recipe ingredients as lyrics) and field trips (imagine taking 29 rowdy girls to a movie in Times Square).

Undead and Unreturnable by Mary Janice Davidson. Though she's the vampire queen, Betsy Taylor is much more like a princess. In Mary Janice Davidson's novels, this high-maintenance monarch is finally coming to terms with her new status.

They say Christmas is a time for friends and family. But with a half-sister who's the devil's daughter, an evil stepmother, a fiend living in her basement, assorted spirits and killers running amok and a spring wedding to plan with the former bane of her existence, Eric Sinclair, Betsy is not sure she'll survive the holidays.

Oh, right. She's already dead...

Everyone Worth Knowing by Lauren Weisberger. This is an irresistible tale about what happens when a girl on the fringe enters the realm of New York's chic, party-hopping elite

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.

Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12 - 7:00 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 12 - 5:00 p.m.

Preschool Story Time:
Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.

Phone: (503) 324-1382 for information
(503) 846-3245 to renew material

Internet: <www.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us>
to browse library resources, to
reserve or renew materials online.

You will need your card number and
password to renew by phone or online.