

Letters

An easy way to help Vernonia K9 program

To the Editor:

In 2004, Chief Workman hired Office Mike Kay. Officer Kay, a certified K-9 Handler brought with him Krueger, a certified police K-9. After watching Officer Kay and Krueger during the past year, I want to thank them for the commitment they have made to Vernonia.

Since November, Officer Kay and Krueger had been involved in several drug seizures, drug money seizure, and fugitive apprehensions for Vernonia, Columbia County, and the Oregon State Police. Office

Kay and Krueger have provided demonstrations at many schools throughout Columbia County.

I would like to say thank you in a more substantial way, and hope that many of you will feel the same. I have opened a donation account for Officer Krueger at Wauna Federal Credit Union. All funds will go to the extraordinary costs of maintaining a K-9 officer: equipment and additional training.

If you wish to support the excellent work being done by Officer Kay and Krueger, please make a deposit. Ask to make your deposit to Officer Krueger's account and the staff at Wauna CFU will take care of

it for you. If you have any questions concerning account, please call me (503-429-6033) or Helen Johnston (503-429-1902).

**Cindy Ball
Vernonia**

Volunteers wanted at Vernonia High School

To the Editor:

VHS is recruiting volunteers to help out at the high school. Research shows school volunteerism is much more common at elementary schools than in secondary schools. We are working to change that trend in our community.

The high school has identified many areas in which we could use help. This is not

meant to be a comprehensive list of tasks, so if you have other skills which you feel would be beneficial to us please do not hesitate to contact us. We are trying to expand our list of guest speakers and presentation topics. We can always use individuals to help read to students or to assist them in typing projects and papers. The publications classes (yearbook and journalism) can utilize readers and editors. The office staff can use help with a variety of tasks including clerical work, publishing materials, and parent/community contacts. Individual teachers have expressed their willingness to work with individuals who might have specific subject matter expertise.

Our research has shown that

many community members are willing to help. We have also found that many people do not participate because they are not asked, or because they feel they have nothing to offer. Please know that we are asking, and that if you think you may have something to offer you probably do.

The high school now has a volunteer coordinator who will help get people involved, and place them in assignments that are meaningful to both the individual and the school. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the high school at 429-3521.

Thank you,
**James Brookins
Vernonia High School
Site Council Chair**

Ike Says

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The second misadventure happened to our local Burches, Errold, Jeff and Dillon. The trio was hunting down at Summer Lake in south central Oregon around the second week in November. The quarry was ducks. Duck and goose hunting is a big deal in the Summer Lake region, with people traveling long distances to get in a weekend of hunting. According to Errold, they were hunting along a dike road that leads out into the refuge, with the Anna River on one side. It was their first afternoon of hunting and they were eager to get some shooting in. The trio did some pass shooting and bagged a few birds in one spot, then Jeff and Dillon decided to walk on down the dike to check out some different spots while Errold stayed to do more pass shooting.

It wasn't long before a flock of shovelers came streaking by and Errold managed to get two birds down. Errold's dog, Fudge, made the first retrieve because the duck had landed in the Anna River, as had the second bird. Fudge is a chocolate lab and was eager to retrieve the ducks. As the river flowed downstream, it passed through three culverts that were parallel to each other to increase the flow capacity through the dike during high water events. The second duck was closer to these culverts, but Errold felt it was safe for the retrieve and sent Fudge

back for the second duck. Fudge forged through the water and reached the duck just fine, then he decided to take the shortest route back to the bank instead of angling back upstream toward his master. Unfortunately, this trajectory was too close to the mouth of the culvert and the dog was swallowed by the culvert, duck and all.

Errold had a bad feeling towards the last part of the retrieve and now he felt like somebody had punched him in the gut. His dog was in the culvert, most likely drowning! Errold ran towards the end of the culvert and watched for any sign of his dog. He noticed that this end of the culvert was not totally under water. The culvert was around 30 feet long and the wait seemed like forever, then the duck popped out of the end of the culvert, followed by Fudge. Fudge was still alive! Errold was extremely pleased and watched in amazement as Fudge spotted the duck and swam over to finish the retrieve. Now that my friends, is a dedicated hunting dog! Fudge was a little hesitant on the next retrieve, but after that, Errold said, she was fine.

Please be careful out there it is indeed a dangerous world.

**Izaak Walton League
Nehalem Valley Chapter**
meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Call 503-429-7193 for location of meeting.

Between the Bookends

By Angie Spiering, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



Welcome to the New Year. Get the year off to a good start and join Miss Cathy for Preschool Storytime on Wednesdays at 10:15 am. Miss Cathy has been entertaining children and their parents during storytime for the past six years.

Storytime themes are:

February 8th: Lovey Dovey

February 15th: Turtles & Slow Pokes

February 22nd: Transportation

Don't forget about the Cultural Pass Program! Banks has added a new museum to the list. Below is a list of passes that your library has available. You may check out up to two per day. The passes are available for a one day loan period. Our library accepts 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	Rice Rock Museum
Washington County Museum	
Pittock Mansion	Japanese Garden
Portland Chinese Garden	Forestry Center
Oregon Sports Hall of Fame	

The library is preparing for Summer Reading 2006 with a shirt sale. You can pre-order tee-shirts in adult, teen and kid sizes. Denim shirts are also available. Please contact us at the library for more information. Orders are due by February 15.

It is that time of year when thoughts turn to travel. We have recently obtained some great travel books in our library (thanks Tualatin Public Library). Travel destinations vary from local hiking books such as *Best Hikes With Dogs Oregon* by Ellen Morris Bishop, to overseas books like Frommer's *Spain 2005 With the Best of Majorca & Ibiza*. There are great family travel books; one of my favorites is *The Unofficial*

Guide to Walt Disney World 2005. Fodor's brings us a huge variety of travel books including *New York City 2004*. Wherever your travels may take you, be sure to do your research at your local library.

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, is about thirty-one year-old Ellie Moon, recently divorced, hounded by a controlling mother, and haunted by her dead sister, who goes on a road trip with her estranged father, Tiny, a famous 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

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