

Letters

Join in the fun of an Easter Bonnet Parade

To the Editor:
This letter is addressed to all of the talented ladies in Vernonia and area.

The Red Hat Society of Vernonia is sponsoring an "Old Fashioned" Easter Bonnet Parade on Saturday, April 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Vernonia Community Church, 957 State Street. This is a great

way to express your talents by decorating a Spring Easter Bonnet and having it judged for fun and prizes! There will be a \$2.00 fee per entry. We are looking forward to making this an annual tradition.

The Red Hat Society hopes that you will keep this date open on your busy schedule and join us for a fun-filled afternoon. Tea and Treats will be served.

The Red Hat Society is a marvelous group for women over 50 to be able to dress in purple, wear red hats and just have fun. If you are interested in joining the Vivacious Vernonia Vixens please call Janie at 503-429-8133 or Betty at 503-429-5571.

Hope to see you April 8th.
**Janie Wasmann
Vernonia**

Former schools head thanked for efforts

To the Editor:
Thank you Mr. Mike Funderburg.

For a three and one half year period Mike Funderburg served as Superintendent of Schools for the Vernonia School District. The following are just some of the accomplishments achieved during Mr. Funderburg's tenure:

1. Building of a new middle school. This was done on low interest loans.
2. Creation of an alternative school. This was done entirely through grant dollars. This program allows students to complete courses of study that for whatever reason they were unable to do in the traditional classroom setting.
3. Creation of summer school sessions for students who, for whatever reason, needed to catch up on subjects. This was offered free of charge for students.
4. Total modernization of the technology within the school system. Over 130 new computers, along with other technology have been put in place for students and staff. A portion of this was done with grant dollars.
5. When Mr. Funderburg arrived the district was behind in the adoption of three text book series. In two years the district was up to date with all text book adoption.
6. Paving of parking lots at the grade school and the high school. This was done for the cost of materials only, the labor and use of equipment was donated by Oregon Department of Transportation and several

school employees on their time off, one of those was Mr. Funderburg.

7. Creating a committee system within the board to allow for more involvement.

8. Hiring of three outstanding principals to lead each of the schools.

9. \$760,000 budget carry over from the 2004-05 year to the 2005-06 year.

The first two budget cycles during Mr. Funderburg's tenure, 2002-03 and 2003-04 saw a total reduction in state funding by \$1 million to the Vernonia School District. Mr. Funderburg led the approach to offset this loss by increasing grant dollars and tight budgeting. This high level of fiscal responsibility resulted in a \$760,000 carry over from the 2004-05 to the 2005-06 budget year. The Vernonia School District is in an enviable situation compared to other Oregon school districts.

Thank you, Mike Funderburg, for the three and one half years of making tough decisions, being willing to dedicate enormous time and exhibiting a high level of leadership that included vision. Your consistent focus of what is best for children has created an environment in which Vernonia students are benefiting today and will continue to benefit from in the future.

**Jim and Marie Krahn
Vernonia**

Dog owners asked to clean up after pets

To the Editor:
Hawkins Park has not been designated a dog park, but it has become a popular place for dog owners to let their animals run free.

With the Easter egg hunt, soccer and softball all coming up soon, a lot of kids will be using the park.

I would like to remind all dog owners to be responsible pet owners and clean up after their animals.

As you know, nothing smells much worse than dog doo-doo.

I'm sure your help in solving this problem will be appreciated by the mothers of these youngsters.

**DeLoris Webb
Vernonia
Please see page 21**

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Four members of the Chess Club will be attending an OSCF championship qualifier event this month. Chris Johnston, Nick Rainbolt, Justin Rainbolt and Jacob Hale, with instructor Linda Johnston will take part in the event

to be held at Whitford Middle School in Beaverton. These boys and several other youngsters regularly play chess in the library after school on Friday afternoons. This is a time for playing chess while learning new strategies; anyone interested in chess is encouraged to attend. (Refreshments are always provided, too.)

This month's after school reading/activity sessions are under the direction of Camrin Eyrrick and are at 3:30 on Mondays when school is in session. The program on March 20th will be conducted by Cecelia Haack, Nutrition Educator for OSU Extension Service. With March being National Nutrition Month, Cecelia has agreed to read a story and direct an activity with nutrition as the theme.

During the last week in March (Spring Break) movie matinees will be held on Monday and Friday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Monday's featured movie will be Zathura and Friday's will be Madagascar. The movies and popcorn will be free to all who attend.

Then—the week of **April 2-8 is National Library Week** with very special activities. Forrest Wheeler will be reading at the 10:30 Pre-School Storytime and making balloon animals for the youngsters in attendance on Monday, April 3rd. Also on April 3rd at 3:30 Mayor, Sally Harrison will be reading stories, Forrest Wheeler will be presenting a fun activity, followed by face painting with Kate Conley. Tuesday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m., Marcia Elliott will present a slide program entitled, **Treasured Dolls that "Settled" the West**. This program is sponsored by Vernonia Study Club and refreshments will be provided by this organization. Following the Friday Chess Club at 2:00 p.m. on April 7th, a movie will be shown at 3:00. Saturday, April 8th, from 10-4 will be the Spring Book Sale sponsored by The Friends of the Library and at 2:00 p.m., Portland author April Henry will be here speaking and reading from her books and autographing any that are purchased.

For those not familiar with April Henry's books, she created the inimitable amateur sleuth, Claire Montrose, whose day job is making sure people don't create any nasty messages with their vanity license plates. To complement the theme of each part of this acclaimed

mystery series, Ms. Henry inserts such license plate terms as "URBSTED = You're Busted and 2DRESQ = To the Rescue." She has also written one of my favorites, *Learning to Fly*, which begins with a freak eastern Oregon dust storm causing a multi-car pileup. Free Meeker, the 19-year-old heroine walks away from the accident to later find she has been listed as one of the fatalities. To make matters even more interesting, Free is in possession of a suitcase containing nearly a million dollars that belong to some unforgiving drug dealers and the identity she has assumed is that of a woman whose abusive boy friend wants to kill her. Ms. Henry's latest novel, *Shock Point*, is written for young adults and tells the story of a girl who discovers that her stepfather has prescribed and administered a behavior changing drug that has caused the deaths of three young people. When she makes plans to expose her stepfather, he has her taken to a supposed 'youth camp' in Mexico. This is really a very brutal prison from which there seems to be no escape. For those who would like to read April Henry's books prior to her visit, some are displayed on the circulation counter. From her writings, I'm sure those who meet and hear her in person are in for a real treat.

New acquisitions include: *The Fallen* by T. Jefferson Parker, *Magic Hour* by Kristin Hannah, *The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson, *The Two Minute Rule* by Robert Crais, *The Kindness of Strangers* by Katrina Kittle, and *The Session* by Judith Kelman.

Thanks to a matching grant from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation the library now has a fourth computer for Internet use by patrons.

In these articles, I do my best to interest people in library activities as well as library resources because sometimes it takes something other than a book to get them in the door, but all of the programs—especially those for youngsters—are designed to encourage a love of reading and of learning. The library's goal is as follows: "To provide current, diverse and popular materials and information through personalized service to the public, and to foster children's appreciation for reading and learning." Whether you come to the library to drop off a ballot, sign up for soccer, pick up income tax forms or any other reason, be sure to look around and see if there is something in which you are interested and if there isn't, make a suggestion. Recommendations are always welcomed.

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Ave.
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Tues., Thur. 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., when school is in session.
Phone: (503) 429-1818