

Letters

Nearly 100, Grange Hall needs your help

To the Editor:

Dear Vernonia and Nehalem Valley Community;

I am writing to request your assistance. Vernonia Grange 305 needs your support. Did you know that the Vernonia Grange building will be 100 years old in 2007! Wow!

Over the last century the Vernonia Grange and its building have served our community well...through world wars, the great depression, recessions, and local boom and bust economies, this simple sturdy structure has provided shelter from the storm. Nehalem Valley

settlers have almost always had this meeting hall in which to gather and discuss common concerns and seek meaningful solutions, and on special occasions share a meal. At the same time, the grange has provided space for people to share their knowledge, develop personal skills and, yes, participate in good ol' fashioned country song and dance, theater and parlor games.

99 years-old and still standing, this great building just needs some general maintenance and repairs.

The "Friends of Vernonia Grange" Committee has identified some building repair and maintenance needs and is seeking your support. In order

of priority:

- The front porch roof needs to be re-shingled before the winter rains.

- The restroom faucet needs to be replaced, a toilet re-installed, and the plumbing winterized.

- The east side of the building needs to be painted, stairways need to be scraped and repainted, main interior walls need touch-up and the kitchen needs a fresh coat of paint.

- New trim needs to be installed in restrooms and stage area, inner doors need to be repaired and re-hung, front and back doors need work as well.

- General cleaning of cupboards and closets is needed.

"Oh yes," in order to improve the individual and group use of

the building, we have long-term remodeling dreams: Installation of an ADA accessible ramp and restroom; a new food service kitchen; and improved media and theater capabilities.

Please help.

We are accepting any and all qualified assistance. A blackboard, with a project list, is posted on the front door of the Grange, at 375 North Ave., where you can write your name and contact number next to the project you are interested in helping with.

Fall Workdays have been scheduled for Saturday, September 23, and Saturday, October 21, from 10:00 a.m. to dusk. Gloves, refreshments, equipment and supplies provided.

The Vernonia Grange is embracing a renewed sense of responsibility to serve this community well. Our desire is to continue to provide a warm and friendly place for community, family, friends to gather. We are especially interested in finding new ways to support local youth, since "Youth is Our Future."

In order for the Vernonia Grange 305 and building to continue to serve the community for the next 100 years it will require increased community and individual support. New members are welcome. Annual dues are only \$30.00.

Please join us and bask in the golden glow of the Vernonia Grange. We cannot do it without YOU.

PS. Vernonia Grange is sponsoring a Haunted House this year. This is another great opportunity to become involved with the Vernonia Grange and provide some additional Halloween fun for the local youth and young at heart. We need help setting up, theatrical and prop assistance during the event, and help with clean-up the day after.

**Maggie Peyton, Master
Vernonia Grange 305**

Objects to shooting range near city park

To the Editor:

It was five years ago when I called *The Independent* and expressed concern regarding the shooting range next to Anderson Park. At that time I was camping out at Anderson with my infant and other children. We were horrified to hear shotguns blasting, scaring the baby out of her sleep, and everyone

out of their wits. Of course, the animals also were scared to death. I couldn't believe this was being done or even allowed right next door to a city park! People are trying to relax and enjoy themselves there.

Of course, being outspoken as I am, I expressed my concern to the owner and asked why the shooting range could n't be moved away from the park and more into the forest, where shotguns belong. The answer was it's been there forever and they weren't moving it.

Now I live in the neighborhood next to the park and am thankful to rarely hear the shots. But yesterday was a different story. We were at the park trying to enjoy a peaceful evening when there we go again, jumping ten feet off the ground and my kids screaming from fright from the surprise shotgun shots that sounded like a bomb exploding in your face.

A wedding reception was being held at the time and I could see, they too, were offended by such torment. No one appreciates being scared to death by these hunters riding in on their wild horses with shotguns, being so inconsiderate of others.

The bottom line is this shooting range should not be allowed there near the public, and I, as well as campers, neighbors, and children ban it.

Just because it's been there forever doesn't mean it should be there now. People go to Anderson Park for peace and tranquility. Let's give the people what they want and what they deserve. The olden days are over. Feel for the veterans of war who never want to hear another gun shot again. Please shoot elsewhere.

**Virginia Kepner
Vernonia**

Ed. Note: The shooting range is on private property and hunters are checking their gunsights before deer season begins. It is not controlled by the City of Vernonia.

Back on track, more about Learning Center

To the Editor:

For some, Labor Day is a time of reflection for the working class, a time of gratitude for those who had courage to stand up for what they believed to be less than ethical standards of a work environment, a time of remembrance for those who lost their lives fighting for a

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Between the Bookends

By Sarah Vandehey, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



The Banks Public Library will have a special guest on September 19th. Author Nel Rand will read from her first novel, *Mississippi Flyway*, at 7:00 p.m. In this work, 31-year-old Ellie Moon reunites with her estranged father, a conman and gambler, on a road trip that follows the Mississippi River. The two are pursued by a Kentucky sheriff driven by revenge. On this journey Ellie learns that in order to forgive, she must first reconnect with her memories. While the author grew up in the South, she now resides in a cabin in the woods near Portland, Oregon.

Preschool Story time has begun again! Join us at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesdays, as Miss Kathy reads about the following themes:

September 6th:	Let's Get Started
September 13th:	Dino-Mania
September 20th :	Proud Porkers
September 27th:	Foxy Friends
October 4th:	(Not yet determined)

Information about Measure 34-126 (the Washington County Library Levy) is available at the Banks Public Library, as well as online at: www.WILInet.wccls.lib.or.us.

Some of our newest books include:

Breaks No Bones by Kathy Reichs. In this crime thriller, forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan discovers a recent skeleton among the ancient remains of Native Americans. As the investigation escalates, so does the body count. Tempe must sort through her feelings along with forensic evidence. Her current and her former husband vie for her interest during this tough case. Reichs, a forensic anthropologist herself, is the inspiration for the hit show *Bones*.

Hit Parade by Lawrence Block. This New York Times best-selling author again intrigues readers with the complex character John Keller. Keller's a no-nonsense hit man for hire, but he's starting

to have doubts about his profession. Despite his attempt to keep his work strictly business, loneliness and qualms about his work are starting to take their toll. Reading about this character reminds me of John Cusack's character in the film *Grosse Pointe Blank*.

Judge and Jury by James Patterson. In this courtroom thriller, single mom and aspiring actress Angie DeGrasse, attempts to dodge the jury pool. She fails and the trial captures the headlines when a mafia don, Dominic Cavello, is revealed as the accused. Just when the don is about to be sentenced, he pulls a stunt that unites DeGrasse and FBI agent Pellisante in a hunt to find him and justice.

End In Tears by Ruth Rendell. From the best-selling author of *Thirteen Steps Down* comes this mystery about two killings that at first seem unrelated. Chief Inspector Wexford must untangle the murder's motive in time to save the next victim. The author's fondness for dark humor and social commentary are present in this work, which addresses the issues of aging, parenthood, class, race and gender roles.

Marley & Me by John Grogan. In this true account of a lovable, but trouble-making yellow Labrador retriever, the author discovers that unconditional love comes in many forms. Though he crashes through screen doors, eats fine jewelry, and fails obedience school, Marley the dog is pure-hearted. His joy and devotion endeared him to his family and will warm readers' hearts.

We are happy to accept books in good condition that meet our donation guidelines. We do NOT accept Reader's Digest, textbooks, encyclopedias or yellowed paperbacks. Please contact us if you have a large quantity or need further clarification.

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, 10:15 a.m.

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

Internet: <www.WILInet.wccls.lib.or.us>

Browse library resources, reserve or renew materials online. *Call for information.*