

## Letters

### Toy and Joy program needs your donations

To the Editor:

To the Community: I am writing this to thank you for your generous contribution to the Vernonia RFPD Toy and Joy. Because of your donations last year, we were able to help 122 children and 40 families. We purchased care packages containing basic personal care products and toys for the children. Through your donations, we were able to bring some joy to these family's holidays. I would like to thank you again for your selfless donations that help support our Toy and Joy program.

It is that time of year again and we would like to let you know the locations of the toy drop barrels that we have placed in town. There is a barrel located at City Hall, a barrel at Vernonia Hardware and a barrel at Black Bear Coffee. All donated toys must be new and

un-wrapped. With your help our Toy and Joy program will continue to be a success.

Also, if you are a family in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at Vernonia Cares and the Vernonia Fire Station. The deadline for application drop-offs is December 15th.

**Daniel Owens**  
Volunteer Fire Fighter  
Toy and Joy President

### Supporters assure Zack's scholarships

To the Editor:

The Zack Attack 2006 Alumni Volleyball Game was a HUGE success! Thank you to everyone who attended for your very generous donations.

I'd like to thank the following people for their participation in this year's Zack Attack: all of the alumni who played (Julie Johnson, Jessica Allison Cieloha, Sommer VanMeter, Brooke Crowston VanMeter, Kim

Oblack Morrison, Kendra DeWitt Schaumburg, Kristen Cota, Kerstin Brixey, Cassandra Cota Budge, and Dawn Bernardi Titus; Matt Blair for his wonderful referee abilities; Gordon Jarman for setting everything up and keeping score; James Brookins for announcing; Shelly Huson and Tory Brixey for manning the donation table; Alanna Ogden and Tricia Levenseller for doing lines; and everyone else who helped with posters, flyers, advertisements, etc. Special thanks to Dana Roach and the Vernonia Mercantile for his donation of the alumni's Zack Attack shirts again. They are great!

The Zack Rumbolz Memorial Scholarship is funded completely by donations, and three major fundraisers: Zack Attack (alumni volleyball), a teen dance held on Saturday of Jamboree, and a taco feed held prior to the Donkey Basketball game in February.

In the last two years we have

been able to give \$19,000 in scholarships to local students. This is possible because of the wonderful generosity from you, the members of our community, friends, family and other donors.

Thank you again for making it possible for us to continue to give this scholarship. It means a lot to me and my family, and to the students of VHS.

**Kathi Fetch**  
Vernonia

### PTA Giving Tree will benefit teachers

To the Editor:

Each year the Vernonia Community PTA sponsors a Giving Tree that benefits the teachers of Vernonia, Mist and Head Start schools. The tree is located at the Vernonia Middle School. There is a \$10 spending limit and wrapped gifts, with the ornament attached, should be placed under the tree by December 13th. Our teachers' days will be brightened on December 15th when members from the PTA hand deliver each gift.

Help us to show support and appreciation to local teachers by participating in this wonderful event.,

**Robin Dennis**  
Vernonia Community PTA

### Thanks for great job on watershed help

To the Editor:

Thank you Oregon Watershed Enhancement (Coordinator Maggie Peyton, Foreman Greg Mastola and Shawna Naeve) for all the trees you planted along our riverbank to help protect fish and wildlife for future generations. Also, a big thank you to Oregon Youth Conservation Corp for the perfect fence you built along our river in the pasture – so many great kids helping the environment and the homeowners.

These programs are open to anyone who lives on a river or creek in the Upper Nehalem Valley. All you pay for is the wire for your fence, the rest is provided without charge. How can you lose? Give Maggie a call at 503-429-2401 for more information.

**Art and Lulu Lamping**  
Vernonia

### Emergency response class will be taught

To the Editor:

The Vernonia CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is planning a class for after the first of the year. We would very much like to have anyone interested in joining the CERT team contact either Mike Orth (503-429-3018) or Janet Conger (503-429-8971) and have your name added to the list of interested individuals. Vernonia CERT is here to help our neighbors, the Fire Department, and Police Department in the event of a disaster.

To learn more about CERT, the federal web page is <http://www.citizenocorps.gov/cert/>.

**Dawn Chere Moss, Secretary**  
Vernonia CERT

### Vernonians help care for our needy families

To the Editor:

Vernonia is a wonderful place to live! As director of our local food bank, I have the opportunity to see generosity in action. Just before Thanksgiving, the local schools ran class competitions for gathering of food for Vernonia Cares. All schools participated. The end result (thanks to teachers, staff, and parental support) was that Vernonia Cares Food Bank received 2,822 pounds of food. This will help so many people in our community! Thanks, everyone for caring and sharing! Special thanks to Cathy Ward and James Brookins, who coordinated this food drive.

An ongoing project of Vernonia Cares, until Christmas, is preparing the groceries for the Christmas Holiday Food Boxes. This year, they will be given out December 22. Our goal is to provide all the basic groceries [that] households need to prepare a holiday meal. Currently, over 90 families have signed up to receive a Holiday Food Box. I've estimated for 125 boxes. I see a greater need this year than in previous years. Personally, I feel that the Christmas Boxes are one of the most rewarding activities Vernonia Cares does. Many people may not be able to afford giving gifts this year. But, through donations by its supporters, Cares

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## Between the Bookends

By Sarah Vandehey, Library Assistant  
Banks Public Library



The Washington County library levy passed. Thanks to all those who worked get the word out and voted!

Join us for the upcoming Preschool Story times. Normally, Miss Kathy will read on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m., but the next

session is on Thursdays at the same time. After that we will return to our Wednesday schedule. Upcoming themes are:

December 13: Christmas  
January 3: Princesses

Nel Rand spoke from her book *Mississippi Flyway* on the 15th. Everyone enjoyed hearing the tale of a young girl reuniting with her estranged father in the South.

Some of our newest books include:

*Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks. This multiple *New York Times* bestselling author returns with a story of love and longing. John Tyree is a soldier who meets the love of his life, Savannah Lynn Curtis, while he is on leave. Though there is mutual attraction, Savannah must choose between waiting for John and moving on.

*Fatal Burn* by Lisa Jackson. This local and *New York Times* bestselling author engages the reader with a thriller about a serial killer bent on revenge. Shannon Flannery feels she is being watched and fears that her daughter has been kidnapped as bait to trap her. No one believes her but Special Forces agent Travis Settler.

*Hot Blooded* by Lisa Jackson. Dr. Samantha Leeds, a late-night radio host, is receiving crank calls that coincide with the deaths of prostitutes. What is this serial killer trying to elicit from his prey and why does Samantha's new neighbor know more about her than a stranger should? Who can she trust and who will be the next to die?

*Whispers* by Lisa Jackson. The local author sets her next tale of a serial killer in our own backyard. Claire St. John is trying to flee her secret past, but journalist Kane Morgan keeps digging around. Will Claire be able bury her past, or will the past bury her?

*The Chairman* by Stephen Frey. Christian Gillette, the young top-dog at New York's leading equity firm walks a fine and fuzzy line between allegiance and betrayal in an extreme game of profit and loss. Will he succeed in taking the firm to new heights?

New non-fiction:

*Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson. Set in Edwardian London, this work relates the intertwined lives of Hawley Crippen and Guglielmo Marconi. The first is seen as "the kindest of men" but nearly commits the perfect crime, while the latter is an inventor of modern communication.

**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.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us](http://www.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us)>

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