

Letters

Is there a limit to All the Help I Can Stand?

To The Editor:
All The Help I Can Stand:

Ain't there a limit
To what a man can take
I've been bent clean over
And I'm about to break
I'm Travel Trailer Trash now
About a hundred square feet
of hell
But I can thank the good
Lord
I'm alive and well

Uncle Sam came to me
His top hat in his hand
He said, I'm here to help you
Restore and save your land
If you could only fill out
The forms on this hand truck
here
Then we can get back to you
Sometime before the next
year

He said, "I see you you
gotcha a trailer
Ain't that a beauty fer shur
Be careful that ya don't plug in
To that receptacle there
We'd hav'ta call it a dwelling

And tax you just a little bit
more
George needs that money
For the Iraq War."

Now ain't there a limit
To what a man can take
I've been bent clean over
And I'm about to break
I'm Travel Trailer Trash now
Even Knott Street wouldn't
have me
It's OK to be homeless
As long as they don't see

And so I took a vacation
Down to the welfare line

I filled out a stack of papers
They treated me real kind
That said that it was a sin
The way my family was done
Go out and spend some
food stamps
And have yourself some fun!

Now ain't there a limit
To what a man can take
I've been bent clean over
And I'm about to break
I'm Travel Trailer Trash now
Even Knott Street wouldn't
have me
It's Ok to be homeless
As long as they don't see
I'm Travel Trailer Trash now
About a hundred square feet
of hell
But I can thank the good
Lord
That I'm alive and well
And I thank the good Lord
That I'm alive to tell.

For all the sore backs and
broken hearts of Vernonia. God
bless you.

Sincerely,
Kevin Scott Stevens
Vernonia

No notification about needing to evacuate

To The Editor:

As I write this, it is 3 a.m. I can't sleep because there is a flood watch and I am worried that I will be asleep when it arrives and not be able to make it out of here. I know from experience neither our 5 policemen, the County, nor Fire will notify me. This isn't the first time. I often awaken to see if there is flood water in the yard.

You see, the morning of the flood I looked at Rock Creek at 8:30 a.m. and it was up to the bank. So I packed some clothes, called the City and told Shannon that I had never been through a flood before, and asked if there was an evacuation notice. She said she had a few calls with that inquiry, but she didn't know and told me to call Fire or Public Works. I called Fire who told me to evacuate immediately! So why didn't someone notify the City? Why weren't the police out noti-

fying people? I checked everyone who lives on Adams Ave. and in the trailer park at Anderson. With one exception they all verified NO police notification. Not even to West Oregon, where the flood water took longer to arrive than it did on my property. I know this because I was in the raised house next door and watched. I couldn't find anyone in the residential area across from the high school who was notified, either.

I'm sure the excuse is "it happened so fast." It did. However, had there been sirens like the one they had here 5 years ago, police sirens or SOMETHING, many could have had a precious hour to save valuables, KNOWING that they needed to evacuate. The water was about 8 inches when I left to go next door at 10:30. I talked to Fire about 9:30. There could have been some time to save things. I wasn't physically strong enough to save much.

December 3 was Shannon's first day working for the City. It's not her fault that there was no one in charge to let her know there was an emergency. I heard that the City Manager "works at home in Cornelius" a lot and I am assuming he wasn't at work the morning of Dec. 3rd, because he wouldn't have been able to get out until the next afternoon. City taxpayers should be better served.

Even in the raised house next door the water was getting too close for comfort, (about 2:30-3 p.m.) so I summoned a rowboat. I couldn't get to the shelter because Bridge Street was totally flooded near the high school. I don't know who those rowboat heroes were, but I thank them. They did NOT know that there was another shelter on this side. Contrary to what I read in *The Independent*, these guys weren't part of the "informed rowboat rescuers" and I don't think they got certificates of commendation. In any case, I am so grateful to them, as I am to Ray and Rose Foster for giving me a place to

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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



The latest issue of *Reminisce* magazine features an article about the Saturday matinees of the 1940s and '50s. This brought back some of my favorite memories, of time spent in the theater where for \$.12 one could spend the afternoon watching

cowboy shows, cliffhanger serials and cartoons. So – this is something we are going to offer in the library on Saturdays beginning February 23, but without the admission fee and with free popcorn. Promptly at 3:00 p.m., each Saturday (at least through April) a children's movie will be shown, then at 7:00 p.m. a family movie will be offered. Family movies will include High Noon, The Wizard of Oz, Grumpy Old Men, Little Women, McLintock, and Cheaper by the Dozen, while youngsters will be choosing from the library's collection of such titles as Mary Poppins, The Jungle Book, Charlotte's Web, The Incredibles, and Curious George. I'm hoping that a couple hours of relaxation on Saturdays will be something that residents can use at this time and that these movies will be well attended.

The next Chautauqua presentation will be Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. This program, entitled The Witch's Garden: The Hidden Meaning of Fairy Tales, is sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities, the Friends of the Library, and the library board and is free to the public.

Children's programs at the library have resumed with preschool story time on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and afternoon story/activities on Mondays at 3:30 p.m.

This is the time of year when memberships in the Friends of the Library may be renewed or initiated at \$5.00 for an individual or \$10.00 for a family membership. All funds received by this organization are used to supplement library programs and materials. There will not be a spring book sale this year because the usual space in the meeting room is not available. Watch for a BIG sale during Jamboree! Books may still be donated to be stored until August. Two of the most popular uses of funds from the Friends have been passes to the Children's Museum and

to OMSI. Be sure and take advantage of these passes. A family of six may visit OMSI free by using this pass. Discounts to OMNI-MAX and to the planetarium are also allowed when using this family pass. These passes will be renewed only if enough use justifies the renewal.

The book group will meet Monday, February 25, at 5:30 p.m. with *God of Animals* by Aryn Kyle being the topic of discussion. New members are always welcome to join this informal group.

New acquisitions include *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, *L.A. Outlaws* by T. Jefferson Parker, *Death Song* by Michael McGarrity, *Judas Horse* by April Smith, *The Appeal* by John Grisham, *Duma Key* by Stephen King, *Prepared for Rage* by Dana Stabenow, *Nameless Night* by G.M. Ford, *The Secret Between Us* by Barbara Delinsky, *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah, *The First Stone* by Judith Kelman, *Stolen in the Night* by Patricia MacDonald, *Every Last Cuckoo* by Kate Maloy, and *Blue Heaven* by C.J. Box.

Of these, I've just begun *Blue Heaven*, with siblings Annie and William Taylor, ages 12 and 10, witnessing a murder in the woods outside a small Idaho town, nicknamed Blue Heaven for its abundance of retired LAPD officers. It becomes evident to the reader early in the book that four of these retired policemen were the killers witnessed by Annie and William, and who also committed a complicated robbery before moving to Idaho. Pursued by these men, Annie and William take refuge with rancher Jess Rawlins who becomes the only hope for their survival. I've enjoyed all of Box's previous novels with Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett as protagonist and am anxious to see how this compares.

Not always mentioned by title are the newest books for young adults and children. These are usually displayed prominently. Be sure to look for these as well as the library's extensive selection of audio books, music cds, DVDs, and magazines.

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Ave.

Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tues., Thur. 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Preschool Story Time: Mondays, 10:30

a.m., when school is in session.

Phone: 503-429-1818

Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters that include personal attacks on private citizens. Because of space limitations, preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number; all letters are subject to editing for clarity or length.