

20 Years ago this Month

The March 31, 1988, issue of *The Independent* had the following article on page 14.

A Portland Trail Blazer team autographed basketball, raffle tickets for a bicycle and a portable TV, pizza parties, a field trip, pencils, bookmarks, Gold Medal Certificates, reader buttons, paper-back books, competition between and within classrooms and parent involvement combined to provide the incentive for the Mist and Vernonia elementary schools' reading program called "Around the World with Books".

The students read an incredible 269,135 pages in the five month program. One half of the amount was recorded by the top twenty students with individual efforts ranging from 3,146 to 9,509 pages.

Leader among the top twenty

ty was hard-working 6th grader, Dusty Traylor, who received the treasured Blazer basketball. In addition, each of the top twenty received gold medals and participation in a field trip to Hillsboro Aquatic Center and playground, scheduled for June 3.

Members of this select group are: Dusty Traylor, Molly Skidmore, Amber Altenhein, Denise Titus, Nathan Peiren, Kenny Tronson, Jeremy Milton, Jennefer Young, Kerri Allen, Mark Ellis, Katherine Knowlton, Samantha Allen, Laura Schlenker, Charlie Elliot, Mark DeHart, RaeLynn Lubbes, Carissa Milton, Leslie Weller, Adam Eide, Jeff DeHart and Becky Raflian.

Winner of the bicycle was Laurie Worley and proud owner of a new portable TV is Gilbert Aguirre.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay\



Should I allow the people to get on with Spring yardwork or give them a false hope? Freeze or rain at night? Sun or gloom during the day? Will anyone really notice? Personally for the last week I've been hopefully reclaiming DVD flood victims. A friend lost her DVD equipment and all disks went under as well (50 stayed above the water line). She chucked the mess and isn't going to replace the

machine. In passing, someone said, "Just dunk them in warm soapy water and rinse off, they will be O.K." Long story short version – she gave the mess to me. The cabinets are gone. The disks cleaned beautifully. So far all I've watched are good as new. The cases have taken hours – remove papers, get out your toothbrush and scrub the indentations and holes, drain, dry and recheck – only those in paper sleeves will require replacement casts. Very Important if you try this: Soak paper stuck on disks – don't try to pull it off – use your finger underwater to wash off the mud. Let the disks air dry on napkins or paper towels label side down, playing side up. (If when dry you notice traces of mud – just redo.) Time consuming – yes,

but rewarding to save the enjoyment they will regive someone.

Now to my bite of the month.

Spring is here – but have you noticed all the gravel and etc. on the sidewalks along Bridge St. (also still thick along the curbs)? I'm sure it was laid down in good faith to help folks walk during the snow and ice. The trucks must have laid it down, but who is to sweep it up and where – I say – Would you walk on rock or out in the street?

Thank you Marge for the words to Black Bird. Wrong song. The one I referred to had the line, "Here I go, swinging low, Pack up all my cares and woes, Bye Bye Black Bird. Good to hear from you anyhow. Have a nice day, wherever you are.

Meaning of fairy tales topic at Library

"The Witch's Garden: The Hidden Meaning of Fairy Tales", a Chautauqua program by Curt Yehnert, will be presented at the Vernonia Public Library on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Yehnert's research has focused on Native American myths and legends, Grimms' Fairy Tales, contemporary urban legends, stories of UFO abductions, angel sightings and near death experiences. These stories can not only define groups, but they often can

help define the world for us. Such stories represent a universal human response to the mysteries of life.

A professor of English at Western Oregon University, Yehnert previously presented a well-received Chautauqua program on Coyote stories.

The program is made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities (OCH), and the Friends of the Library. Refreshments will follow the presentation.

Rx card free to county residents

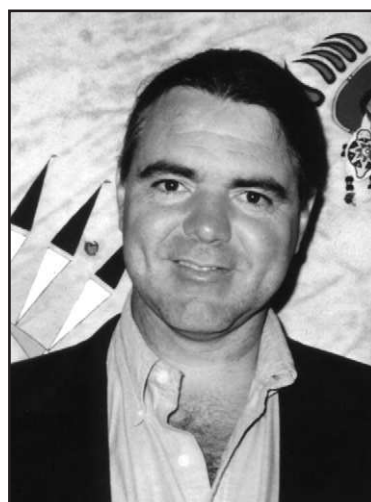
A discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs is being introduced by Columbia County. The county has signed a contract to make free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers an average savings of 20-percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards are administered by Caremark Rx, Inc. and are available beginning this week and may be used by all county residents, regardless of age,

income or existing health coverage. An estimated 10 - 40 percent of the county's pharmacies will accept the NACo card, and a national network of more than 57,000 participating retail pharmacies will also honor it. These cards are being distributed to all city halls within the county, all libraries, most drug stores, all senior centers and the Columbia County Courthouse.

"The NACo prescription discount card will offer significant savings for the uninsured and under-insured residents of our county and even those fortunate enough to have prescription coverage may use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan," said county spokesperson Janet Wright, "Residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries to be eligible for this program." There will be no cost to county taxpayers for NACo and Columbia County to make these money-saving cards available to residents.

"Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy," said Wright, "A cardholder will simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment for, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance."



Curt Yehnert

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