

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



The spring book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library was very successful. Thanks to all who donated books, purchased books and helped with the sale. All proceeds will be used to supplement library programs and materials. The next meeting of the Friends will be Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Dues are only \$5.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a family membership with new members gladly accepted.

Mark your calendar for this Saturday, March 21st at 2:00 p.m. when Barbara Scot and Eileen O'Keefe McVicker, will be at the library discussing/autographing their book, *Child of Steens Mountain*. This is McVicker's memoir of her childhood as the daughter of an Irish immigrant sheep rancher who homesteaded on the southern slope of Steens Mountain. The book has been edited and organized by McVicker's friend and neighbor, author Barbara Scot.

There will be no preschool or after school programs the week of Spring Break—March 23-28. Instead, the library has several movies scheduled to be shown during the week, as follows: Wed. March 25 @ 2:00 p.m., *High School Musical III*; Thurs. March 26 @ 2:00 p.m. *Horton Hatches the Who*; Fri. March 27 @ 7:00 p.m. *Twilight*; and Sat. March 28 @ 7:00 p.m. *Sweet Home Alabama*. For further family fun during the week, remember the passes to the Children's Museum and to OMSI which may be checked out.

Book discussion will be Monday March 30 at 5:30 p.m. with the featured book being *Dreams from My Father*, by Barack Obama.

Something I seldom do is read two books at the same time but this happened because I happened to pick up Jodi Picoult's new book, *Handle With Care*, on my way to the dentist. Of course there was a wait, so I started to read and have not been able to stop. As usual Picoult has created a heart-wrenching novel incorporating several controversial issues including medical malpractice, adoption, abortion, loyalty to friends

and love of family. The main questions that the novel raised for me are—Should only healthy babies be born if prenatal testing shows abnormalities?; How can parents-to-be possibly make that decision?; and How can the value of any life be determined? These issues arise when Willow O'Keefe is born with brittle bone disease, requiring her mother, Charlotte, to be a full-time caregiver and straining the emotional and financial limits of the family. Charlotte decides to sue for wrongful birth to ensure Willow's future, claiming that her doctor should have noticed irregularities early enough in the pregnancy to make termination an option. This lawsuit is entirely at odds with the feelings that Charlotte and her husband Sean have concerning Willow, who is smart, funny, pretty, kind, brave, wise beyond her five years and loved wholeheartedly. This is a novel of a family bound by an incredible burden and a powerful capacity for love.

The book I was originally reading and would also like to recommend is, *Sing Them Home*, by Stephanie Kallos. This novel, set in Southeastern Nebraska, involves the lives of three siblings and the impact their mother's death has on their personalities and relationships with the opposite sex. Kallos has the ability to make even the unlikely believable. I am anxious to return to the book and find out what happens to these quirky characters.

Other new acquisitions include *The Renegades* by T. Jefferson Parker, *Whisper to the Blood* by Dana Stabenow, *Love Mercy* by Earlene Fowler, *Torched* by April Henry, *Into the Forest* by Jean Hegland, and *Heart and Soul* by Maeve Binchy.

The Arts and Crafts Society recently made a donation to help fund the afterschool program, which will help purchase snacks and craft supplies. This group will be meeting regularly in the library on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. and invites people to bring their works-in-progress and join them.

**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

## Out of My Mind

### From page 2

economic agricultural problems

- \$140,000 to research organic crops
- \$180,000 to research the oil-producing plant, Meadow-foam
- \$2.3 million for wave energy development
- \$1.5 million for geothermal energy production
- \$190,000 for OHSU's One Sky National Resource Center for American Indian/Alaskan Natives to provide better substance abuse and mental health services

- \$200,000 for the OHSU Institute for Neuropsychiatric Diagnosis
- Nearly \$34.5 million to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan to deepen the Columbia River Channel, to maintain the shipping channel between Portland and the mouth of the Columbia River. (According to Rep. David Wu, this funding will help support the nearly 40,000 jobs that rely on the Columbia River maritime industry.)

Altogether, Oregon will re-

ceive \$75,251,925 in funding for 120 earmarks.

In comparison, Kentucky will receive \$140,482,257 for 164 earmarks. Using 2008 population estimates, Oregon will receive \$19.86 per person and Kentucky will receive \$32.91 per person.

Does that mean Kentucky's earmarks have more pork than Oregon's? I don't know because I haven't looked up the reasons for all of the earmarks in either state.

Pork, it seems, is in the eye of the beholder.

## Letters

### Customer must have believed in miracles

To The Editor:

I have been retired for 14 years. I sometimes wish that I had something to do. Recently, I went to Fred Meyer to have a

key made. The old gentleman who duplicated my key, like myself, was working for something to do, and told me the following story:

A woman came in earlier and had a key made. She came back an hour later complaining that the key didn't work. The old gentleman laid the new key over the old key. He examined both keys and came to the conclusion that they were identical. He asked her, "Are you sure the old key worked?" She said, "No it didn't work. That's why I had another key made."

**Eddie Peters**  
Vernonia

### 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.

"If a baseball player slides into home plate and, right before the umpire rules if he is safe or out, the player says to the umpire — 'Here is \$1,000.' What would we call that? We would call that a bribe. If a lawyer was arguing a case before a judge and said, 'Your honor before you decide on the guilt or innocence of my client, here is \$1,000.' What would we call that? We would call that a bribe.

"But if an industry lobbyist walks into the office of a key legislator and hands her or him a check for \$1,000, we call that a campaign contribution. We should call it a bribe."

— Janice Fine, *Dollars and Sense* magazine

## Where to Find Them

### U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (Dem)

1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 585  
Portland OR 97232  
Phone: 503-326-7525  
223 Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001  
Phone: 202-224-5244  
E-Mail: <http://wyden.senate.gov/contact>  
Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>

### Senator Betsy Johnson (Dem) Senate District 16

PO Box R,  
Scappoose, OR 97056  
Phone: 503-543-4046  
900 Court St. NE, S-314  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1716  
E-mail: [sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us](mailto:sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson>

### U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (Dem.)

One World Trade Center  
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250  
Portland, OR 97204  
Phone: 503-326-3386  
B-40B Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-3753  
E-Mail: [senator@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:senator@merkley.senate.gov)  
WebSite: <http://merkley.senate.gov>

### Representative Brad Witt (Dem) House District. 31

21740 Lindberg Road,  
Clatskanie, OR 97016  
Phone: 503-728-4664  
900 Court St. NE, H-373  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1431  
E-mail: [rep.bradwitt@state.or.us](mailto:rep.bradwitt@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt>

### U.S. Representative David Wu (Dem) OR District 1

620 SW Main, Suite 606  
Portland, OR 97205  
Phone: 503-326-2901  
2338 Rayburn House Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-0855  
Website: <http://house.gov/wu>

### Representative Deborah Boone (Dem) House District 32

PO Box 926  
Cannon Beach, OR 97110  
Phone: 503-717-9182  
900 Court St. NE, H-375  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1432  
E-mail: [rep.deborahboone@state.or.us](mailto:rep.deborahboone@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/boone>