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 the Thursday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m. when Barbara Scott 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 raises 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 Maevie 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 workshops and join them.

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Ave.
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 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

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.

Where to Find Them

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden
(Dem) Senate District 16
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

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley
(Dem.)
One World Trade Center
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503-326-3386
B-408 Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3753
E-Mail: senator@merkley.senate.gov
Website: http://merkley.senate.gov

U.S. Representative David Wu
(Rep.) Oregon 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://wus.house.gov

U.S. Representative Jeff Burton
(Dem.)
Washington, D.C. 20503-0234
Phone: 202-225-0861
E-Mail: burton.house.gov
Website: http://burton.house.gov

U.S. Senator Betsy Johnson
(Dem) Senate District 16
PO Box R,
Sapppoose, OR 97056
Phone: 503-326-3444
900 Court St. NE, S-314
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-986-1716
E-Mail: sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us
Website: http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson

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
Website: http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt

Representative Deborah Boone
(Dem) House District 32
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://boone.house.gov

Out of My Mind

From page 2

* $140,000 to research organic crops
* $180,000 to research the oil-producing plant, Meadowfoam
* $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 Diagnoses
* Nearly $34.5 million to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ plans 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 receive $75,251,952 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 earmark estimates, Oregon will receive $75,251,925 in funding and $19.86 per person.

— Janice Fine, Dollars and Sense magazine