

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Recently I was asked what I like best about working in the library. Taking everything into consideration, I would probably say that getting to know the patrons and their reading habits well enough to choose books they will enjoy is the most enjoyable part of my job. Even so, it is always a big help when patrons make recommendations of books they would like to read and of books they have read and enjoyed immensely. Sometimes a patron has discovered an author of which I'm completely unaware. Such was the case with Charlene Harris and her Southern Vampire series featuring telepathic waitress Sookie Stackhouse. *Dead and Gone*, Book 9 in this series, is one of the newest acquisitions with most of the others in this series now available in the library.

Three books were highly recommended by patrons during this past month. One is a work of historical fiction by author Jennifer Chiaverini, known for her Elm Creek Quilt series. Entitled, *The Lost Quilter*, Chiaverini's newest work finishes a story begun in *Runaway Quilt*—the story of a runaway slave who reached Elm Creek through the Underground Railroad in 1859, only to be captured and returned to Virginia. Even though this book is purely fiction, it vividly reminds the reader of how inhumanly African-Americans were treated in the Confederate South in the mid-1800s. All of this series by Chiaverini may be found in the library.

The Help by Katherine Stockett, the second

patron recommendation of the month, is also set in the South, but in the early 1960s. It is about a young white woman who becomes interested in the plight of black ladies' maids and writes their stories about mistreatment, abuse and heartbreaks while working for white families. This is a beautifully written, thought-provoking book.

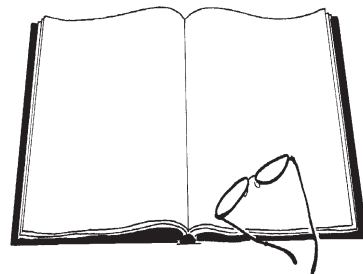
The third recommendation is a completely different type of book from the previous two. In *Stories of Stone: Travels Through Urban Geology*, author David B. Williams discusses building stones that have been used in America, the history of their use by humans, their geological formation, and how they were quarried. This book reads like a wonderful travel guide as it stimulates the reader's curiosity about seemingly common materials such as marble, slate, sandstone, granite, etc. For something a little out of the ordinary, give this book a try.

Other new acquisitions include *Rough Country* by John Sandford, *The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown, *Home Safe* by Elizabeth Berg, *Evidence* by Jonathan Kellerman, *The Christmas List* by Richard Paul Evans, *Half Broke Horses* by Jeanette Walls, and *Best Friends Forever* by Jennifer Weimer.

Remember that the afternoon reading program is again taking place on Tuesdays from 3:30 till 4:30. Youngsters from grades K-6 are welcome to enjoy stories and crafts under the direction of Jennifer Moloney.

On Saturday, October 24th and Saturday, October 31st, movies will be shown at 2:00 p.m. The featured movies will be *Scooby Doo and the Goblin King*, and *Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie*. Mature movie night will be Friday, October 30th, at 7:00 p.m. with *The Witness*, starring Harrison Ford. Monthly book discussion will be held Monday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m., with George Bryon Wright's new novel, *Driving to Vernonia*, being discussed.

Remember to check out the display of "Patron Picks" for books recommended by local readers; remember to guess the weight of the pumpkin and the number of Halloween goodies; and remember that Vernonia's Ballot Drop site is the library—Look for the gray metal box just inside the double doors on the left.



Oregon State Police offer tips for children's Halloween safety

The Oregon State Police - Missing Children Clearinghouse and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) understand parents and children have concerns when planning for Halloween activities.

"Child safety is important year round, but Halloween is an especially important time for parents and children to pay extra attention to their surroundings and not let their guard down," said Nancy McBride, National Safety Director of NCMEC. "It is important that parents exercise a few basic safety precautions to help ensure that Halloween is both fun and safe."

The "Trick or Treating" safety tips below, as well as free Children Identification Kits available in Spanish and English, are available to help parents keep their children safe.

1) Be sure older children TAKE FRIENDS and younger children are accompanied by a TRUSTED ADULT when "Trick or Treating."

2) Accompany younger children to the door of every home they approach and make sure parents and guardians are familiar with every home and all people from whom the children receive treats.

3) Teach children to NEVER enter a home without prior permission from their parents or guardians.

4) Teach children to NEVER approach a vehicle, occupied or not, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

5) Make sure all children wear reflective clothing and carry a glow stick when out at dusk and at night.

6) Make sure children are able to see and breathe properly and easily when using facial masks. All costumes and masks should be clearly

marked as flame resistant.

7) Teach children to NEVER approach a home that is not well lit both inside and outside.

8) Teach children to stay alert for any suspicious incidents and report them to their parents, guardians, and/or the proper authority.

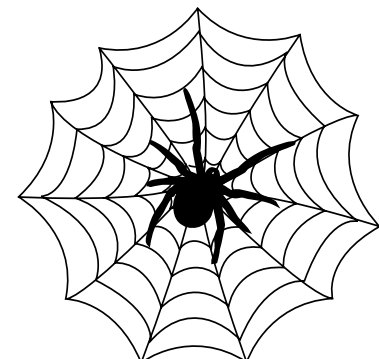
9) Teach children if anyone tries to grab them to make a scene; loudly yell this person is not my father/mother/guardian; and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.

10) Consider organizing or attending parties at home, in schools, or in community centers as a good alternative to "Trick or Treating."

Available year round through the Oregon State Police - Missing Children Clearinghouse (OSP MCC), ID Complete Child Identification and DNA kits are a wonderful method to be prepared in case your child ever becomes missing. "These kits are not only helpful when you need them most, but they are also a great way to open up communication lines with your children regarding child safety," said Judy Hayes of the OSP MCC.

The child ID Complete kits were purchased with money raised during the 11th Annual Oregon State Police Missing Children Golf Benefit held in Salem last month. More than \$14,000 was raised this year that will help buy 26,000 child ID kits.

Obtaining a child ID Complete kit from the Oregon State Police - Missing Children Clearinghouse can be done by calling 503-934-0188 or, outside Salem, 1-800-282-7155, or e-mail child.idkits@state.or.us. Provide your name, address, number of kits needed and a call back phone number when making a request.



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