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Letters

Thanks for help to national rodeo finals

To the Editor:

Thank You for your support. I wanted to thank everyone who has contributed money for my trip to the national finals in Oklahoma. I wish to thank the Carr family, all the teachers at Vernonia High School, The Vernonia Ridge Riders, Cafe 47 and a special thanks to Dawn at Double C Tack who has done so much to help me. Once again thank you every one who has sent me sponsorship money.

I also want to congratulate my brother Matt Bringman. We found out two weeks ago that his last ride placed him high enough to ride in the finals also. Matt, we are all so proud of you – good job.

**Jake Bringman
 Vernonia**

More letters on page 21

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.

The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy: that is the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness.

— John Kenneth Galbraith

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
 Vernonia Public Library



Late this past summer information was received inviting Oregonians to submit stories about life in rural communities. The information was posted for the public but, with a deadline of September 30, 2009, those who might have been interested felt

that didn't give them enough time. It happened that Errold and I spent a week in Central Oregon during September and I had lots of spare time while he fished, so I fooled around on my computer trying to write something about Vernonia. With input and editing help from Noni Andersen and pictures from Donna Webb, the story was submitted. A letter arrived last week informing us that this story was accepted and that it had "won first place in the Oregon Rural Communities Explorer story competition". This also means that the story will be featured along with other winners on the Rural Communities Explorer website (www.oregonexplorer.info/rural) this winter and that it will be permanently archived in ScholarsArchive@OSU. This story is about the blessings and the hazards of living in this "pocket in the woods" in proximity to the Nehalem River and Rock Creek. I wanted the story to reflect the spirit of the community—why we choose to live in this gorgeous locale despite the forces of nature that seem to have conspired against us over the years. I also wanted others to know about this fantastic community—how it has responded to good times and dreadful times and how, through the resilience of its citizens, it is looking to the future.

On Saturday, November 21st at 1:00 p.m., Merv Johnson will be showing slides of Fred Busch Logging on Humbug Mountain. These photos, taken in 1979 of the logging of a patch of green timber which had been untouched by the Tillamook Burn, will be shown in the library with all interested people encouraged to attend.

To again offer library supporters the opportunity to give to the library during the holidays, a selection of books will be available for "adoption". The "adopted" books will then become part

of the library's collection. Obtained through The St. Helens Bookshop, all of these items will be available at 20 percent off their regular price.

New acquisitions include *Ford Country* by John Grisham, *Kindred in Death* by J. D. Robb, *Last Night in Twisted River* by John Irving, *A Quilter's Holiday* by Jennifer Chiaverini, *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver, and *Abandoned* by Cody McFadyen. The library also has a very nice selection of holiday videos, as well as CDs by such artists as Elvis Presley, Kenny Rogers, Bing Crosby, Josh Groban, and The Mormon Tabernacle Choir. A recent donation from U. S. Bank is now included in the library's collection of books. Entitled, *Gung Ho!*, this book is a motivator for increasing productivity, profits, and personal prosperity.

Last year the Oregon Library Association promoted "Oregon Reads" by encouraging the reading of a specific book, *Stubborn Twig*. This coming year, we will be having a "Community Reads" and have chosen George Bryon Wright's novel, *Driving to Vernonia*, for residents of our community to read. Mr. Wright donated four copies of his novel to the library, so it should be readily available.

Upcoming movies to be shown at the library include: *An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving* on Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m., and *Monsters vs Aliens* on Saturday, November 28 at 2:00 p.m. Several movies will be offered during the holidays. Watch for the dates and times, which will be posted in the library.

The book for discussion this month is *Maiden Voyage*, with the meeting scheduled for Monday, November 30 at 5:30 p.m.

The American Library Association recently sent several card games to promote "Game Day" at the library. Friday afternoons will be "Game Days" in our library, with everyone encouraged to play chess, board or card games.

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

Avakian applauds extension of "Whistleblower" law to businesses

Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, on November 2, offered his thanks to the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) for the group's hard work on House Bill 3162 (2009) which extends "whistleblower" protection for reporting violations of the law to employees of private entities. HB 3162 builds on Oregon's existing protection for public employees who report violations of state or federal law or regulation. The new protection goes into effect on January 1, 2010.

"Oregon workers should not have to risk their livelihoods to

report wrong-doing, regardless of who their employer is," said Commissioner Avakian. "I appreciate all of the effort by OTLA during the legislative session to enact this new protection. The Bureau of Labor and Industries' Civil Rights Division stands ready to vigorously enforce the law."

Under current law, public employers have long been held accountable for retaliation and discrimination against employees who report violations of law. Enactment of HB 3162 means private employers will also be held accountable if they engage in

discrimination or retaliation against whistleblowers.

"Courts have been narrowing employees' protections against wrongful discharge," said OTLA President Dana Sullivan. "The legislature recognized that workers need to feel secure reporting issues to their employer, who is in the best position to remedy the problem."

Supporters of the new law believe that protection from discrimination and retaliation will encourage whistleblowers to come forward, reducing misconduct and creating a fair and level playing field for law-abid-

ing employers.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries defends the rights of workers and citizens to equal, nondiscriminatory treatment in workplaces, housing and public accommodations and encourages and enforces compliance with state laws relating to wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment. The bureau also partners with business and labor organizations to build a skilled workforce in Oregon and trains employers to understand and comply with civil rights and other labor and employment laws.