

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



If you take a jet boat ride on the Snake River, you might be regaled with the tale of the massacre of nearly three dozen Chinese miners—how a gang of horse thieves lined the miners up and shot them, one by one, after they refused to disclose where they had hidden their gold, and how the gold was never found because the first miner killed was the only one who spoke English. If this happens, just remember that the tragedy did take place, but the story told during your journey might not be completely factual. Would anyone finding the gold want it known he was involved? How would anyone know the sequence in which the men were murdered, or that the first man killed was the only one to speak English? Although three men were arrested and charged with the murder, no one was held accountable for this crime and the records associated with the incident were missing for years and only found in 1995 in an unused Wallowa County safe. When he first learned of these documents, R. Gregory Nokes was a reporter for The Oregonian, and he approached the discovery as a news story. After his retirement in 2003, he found the time to thoroughly research the incident, which resulted in his recently published book, *Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon*. Nokes admits that even though he has learned a great deal, he hasn't learned everything about the incident. For anyone interested in historical events in Oregon, this is a book I would encourage you to read and then, if you do happen to hear the spiel while on a jetboat excursion, you will have an under-

standing of the event and be able to discern fact from reality with a little embellishment.

Whether it was done by chance or intentionally, a fictionalized story about this incident has also recently been published. Entitled, *Deep Creek*, this novel takes place in Idaho Territory in 1887, and begins as the daughter of a judge catches the body of a man while fishing in Deep Creek. As the bodies of more than thirty Chinese miners surface, their employer hires an Idaho lawman to solve the case. Written by Dana Hand, this novel combines history and imagination as it also helps illuminate this long suppressed American tragedy.

Other recent acquisitions include *Hell Gate* by Linda Fairstein, *One False Move* by Harlan Coben, *Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah, *Secrets of Eden* by Chris Bohjalian, as well as a selection of DVDs including *Cool Runnings*, *Ax Men*, *Season Two*, and *The Bucket List*.

Movies for February will be *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* on Saturday, the 20th, at 2:00 p.m., and *Just Like Heaven* starring Reese Witherspoon on Thursday, the 25th, at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion of Sherman Alexie's book, *The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* will take place Monday, February 22 at 5 p.m.

Thanks to The Friends of the Library, the library now has a storage cabinet for craft supplies and a new display for DVDs. This also allows the utilization of a much needed additional book shelf.

**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

## Teens – some dates are dangerous

by Chris Thomas,  
Oregon News Service

Valentine's Day is anything but "hearts and flowers" when one partner can't control their temper, and dating violence can happen at any age. A 2009 survey of Oregon 11th-graders found six percent had been intentionally hit, slapped or physically hurt by someone they were dating.

National figures are much higher according to Kerry Naughton, Crime Survivor Program director for the Partnership for Safety and Justice, although the problem is hard to quantify. Naughton explains that many people do not report dating violence because they're embarrassed or they don't think of it as a crime.

"It's difficult enough to really get a handle on the prevalence of intimate partner violence in adult relationships. It's even more difficult when we're talking about teenagers, who have a lot less experience with healthy relationships and dating in general."

In a 2004 University of

Michigan survey, 81 percent of parents said dating violence either was not an issue for their children, or they were not sure if it was, and more than half had not discussed the topic with their teens.

Naughton says people often make excuses for the erratic behavior of someone they care about, which can lead to an escalating cycle of abuse.

"Dating violence isn't just a bad mood after a bad day. It's a pattern of behavior that can include physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse."

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Naughton says her group's Web site has links to information for both teens and parents at [www.safetyandjustice.org](http://www.safetyandjustice.org) and click on "crime survivors." The national Teen Dating Abuse telephone helpline is 1-866-331-9474.

The Oregon 11th-graders statistic is from the 2009 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey conducted by the Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Department of Education.

## Ag. scholarship open to women

The Oregon Farm Bureau Women's Advisory Council is now accepting applications for its 2010 Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship is open to women who have completed at least one year of college and are pursuing an agriculture- or forestry-related major. Applicants also must be voting or supporting Farm Bureau members or be part of a family that has a Farm Bureau voting or supporting membership.

Both full-time students, with at least 12 credits per term, and part-time students, with at least 6 credits per term, are eligible.

The scholarship application is available on the Oregon Farm Bureau website at [oregonfb.org](http://oregonfb.org). Applications are due by May 1, 2010.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Moss at 503-399-1701 or [annemarie@oregonfb.org](mailto:annemarie@oregonfb.org).

## OSU Extension Service announces 4-H scholarship

OSU Extension Service in Columbia County has announced a \$5,000 scholarship for 4-H youth attending Oregon State University in the fall.

The Columbia County 4-H Finance & Investment Scholarship is designed for youth who are interested in pursuing a de-

gree at Oregon State University. This is a multi-year scholarship of up to \$1,250.00 per year, for four years at OSU. Applicants must have participated in the Columbia County 4-H program and have some experience in the area of business and finance (examples include:

member of FBLA, taken high school personal finance or investments classes). Scholarship recipients must be attending Oregon State University and be majoring in Finance or a closely related field in the College of Business or in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Program.

Application and letters of recommendation must be received by April 1, 2010. For questions about qualifying, call Jenny Rudolph, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Service, Columbia County at 503-397-3462.

For more information and a copy of the application, go online to [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/sites/default/files/Columbia\\_County\\_Scholarship\\_Application\\_2010.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/sites/default/files/Columbia_County_Scholarship_Application_2010.pdf), or visit the OSU Extension Service office at 505 N. Columbia River Highway, St. Helens.

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## "Undie Sunday" all month of Mar.

Participating Churches in partnership with Columbia County Commission on Children and Families (CCCCF), are sponsoring Undie Sunday. The Undie Sunday "month of giving" began on February 14 and will run through March 7.

This project was created because many children in Columbia County are in need of basic necessities like underwear and socks. Local churches, organizations, and community members have been asked to partic-

ipate by collecting new underwear and socks for children ages birth through high school.

Churches, organizations and individuals who would like to donate new socks, underwear, and diapers for little ones may drop items off at your local participating church or organization, or you can call the number below to find out where the drop off locations are in your area. Items may also be left at the Commission on Children

**See Help on page 11**