

**Bits & Bites**

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Another day, another snow storm? Oh, well – this is Oregon.

Comment on “The Ax Men Series” – Sorry to see Pihl crew gone but not the foul mouth he hired for whatever reason. He killed the segment for me – glad he’s gone. The Producers should be shamed for letting it go on as long as it did. Enough said.

Do you really want to know what I miss. Ok, anyhow here goes:

I miss my friends, the quiet streets, the walk in the trees, the rabbits and ducks at the Lake, the day trips out of town to shop, doctors appointments, trip to the Brass comb, and lunch in a quiet place. And maybe a cup of tea and a game of Rummy Cube or Mexican Train with friends and, believe it or not, – not having to search 150 channels on the T.V. to find something worth watching.

I understand Pastor John Cahill has come out of retirement – Thank You for answering a lot of folks prayers for you. I have missed his guiding hand and his message.

I see the school date opening has been pushed again but I’ve a question, where do Vernonia Cares and the Senior Center stand?? This is an old story but the City Council, in 1997 or 8, promised “us”, yes us – I was then active in the Sr. Center. “We will get you relocated,” and the date was tentative to around 2002 or 3??? Many things have gone through the City Council and much water under and over the bridge since then, and still all the money that was spent on hiring consultants, planners and architects and some redone. Was this money spent for naught? I know now it’s wait until the Power Company, the Dr. Office, the drug store and on and on – to when???

Right – I don’t live there any more but...fair is fair, right? Vernonia Cares should have some real place to call HOME. The Sr. Center also.

For now – Ta, ta.

PS. It seems there is always something wrong with a piece of ground. It’s state property or contaminated and on and on...

— CORRECTION —

The next to last paragraph in the March 4 issue should have read,

“Surely there is more to life than trying to stifle the newspaper.”  
The Independent apologizes for this error.

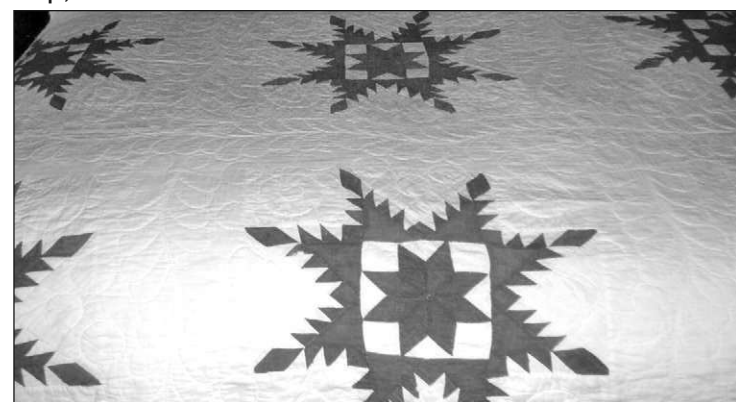
**50 Years Ago This Month**

The March 10, 1960, issue of the Vernonia Eagle included the following news story on the front page:

Representative Walter Norblad (R-Ore) has recommended to the post office department that the post office at Birkenfeld be made a

**Please see page 22**

**Looking for information on this old red & white Feathered Star quilt. It was left at the Vernonia Senior Center earlier this year. We would like to learn more about it. If you can help, Please call Sue at 503-429-7014**



The cameras are ready to roll on this scene from the movie, *FRAY*, parts of which were filmed in Vernonia. Photo by c.updegrave ©2010, Volunteer Production Coordinator and Set Photographer. See story below.

**FRAY feature movie being filmed locally**

Did you recently see the cameras rolling in Vernonia and wonder what was going on? Once again Vernonia will be on the big screen.

*FRAY* is the name of the feature film that is currently in production. It’s the story of a veteran back from combat in Iraq, trying to find a new sense of purpose despite psychological and physical limitations. Written and directed by Geoff Ryan, *FRAY* is being put together as a Spork Productions film. Ryan’s vision is, “to create a story that embodied the essence of returning veterans’ experience.”

Ryan previously used the concept in a 7-1/2 minute short film and has now expanded the concept in this film, with plenty of help and support from many quarters. Filming has already taken place on Hawthorne Blvd. in Portland, at PCC Rock Creek campus, at Banks Lumber Mill, Vernonia Lake, the Cherry Tree Apartments, Sentry Market, and at the home of

Vernonia residents Arnie and Mary Tolonen. Lacey Home, serving homeless veterans in Washington County, helped with background.

Ryan has put together an impressive team for the film. Jarin Blaschke, the cinematographer, had three films at Sundance Film Festival in 2007. The main character, Justin, is played by actor Bryan Kaplan, who studied drama in London at the British Academy and the Royal Academy. Kaplan, who has won awards for his work with the London Theater, has been chosen to be the first American to play Hamlet in a

one-man play in London this coming winter. Marisa Costa has the role of Justin’s girlfriend, Cheri. Jodi Redmond is the producer. Local photographer Chris Updegrave is the Volunteer Production Coordinator and Set Photographer.

“There are so many films about war but we are trying to be apolitical. This is about guys who went over (to Iraq) to do something most of us don’t. This is about his (Justin’s) obstacles,” Ryan said about the film and the ending, “If the audience is optimistic, it’s an optimistic ending. If they are pes-

**See FRAY on page 22**

***If you have done your best, you have won your prize.***

**~ Bill Bowerman**



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