

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



It's budget time again! Though not finalized, the budget for 2010-2011, as proposed, will allow the range of materials and level of library service provided to local citizens to be maintained for another year. As I've written previously, library service in a small, out-of-the-way community such as Vernonia is so crucial and particularly imperative when jobs and money are in short supply. This reality is reflected in library statistics which show that circulation of materials, computer use and utilization of the library by those attending programs—adult and youth—is at an all-time high. Having this attractive, functional facility available to all of the community is something for which we can truly be appreciative.

Last week's Conversation Project by Geoffrey Hiller, about Bangladesh, was the library's first program since Oregon Humanities changed their format. It went very well, was entertaining and informative. If anyone would like to look at the choices and help recommend future offerings in this format, the website is <http://oregonhumanities.org>.

The big event this week in celebration of National Library Week will take place Thursday, April 15 at 6:45 (tonight) with the return of B.J. the Clown. Bring your youngsters down and join the fun. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, with Vernonia Study Club providing cookies and juice following the program.

The after-school story/activity time will continue through May on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 when school is in session. Jennifer Moloney has done a fantastic job this year in offering crafts and stories that have been imaginative and informative. June will be the time to sign-up for this summer's reading program, Make a Splash, READ! As you can guess, the fun this summer will include a lot of water activities, and Jennifer has been busy arranging for some really great prizes for those who complete their reading goals.

New acquisitions include several by authors who have been popular with Vernonia's readers. These include *Down to the Wire* by David Rosenfelt, *Caught* by Harlan Coben, *Hell Gate* by Linda Fairstein, *Saddled* by Susan Richards, *Whiter than Snow* by Sandra Dallas, *Nowhere to Run* by C. J. Box, *The Aloha Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini, and *An Absence so Great* by Jane Kirkpatrick.

Movie matinee for youngsters this month will be Saturday, April

23 at 2:00 p.m., with *The Princess and the Frog*. Mature movie night on Thursday, April 29, will present *The Blind Side* at 6:30 p.m.

The book for discussion this month is *Mutant Message Down Under* by Marlo Morgan. This is the story of an American woman who accompanies a remote tribe of Aboriginals on a four-month-long walkabout through the Outback. This informal meeting will take place Monday, April 26 @ 5:30 p.m.

Remember the library has offerings in materials and programs for all ages. Be sure to take advantage of them.

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

Get your boat ready now

The sun is starting to shine and the days are getting longer, which means its time to de-winterize your boat. The Oregon State Marine Board offers some reminders and suggestions to get ready for the first excursion this season.

First, make sure you have your boater education card. "All boaters who operate a motorboat over 10 horse power will need to take a boating safety course and carry their boater education card with them out on the water," says Ashley Massey, Public Affairs Specialist for the Marine Board. "Youth ranging from 12 to 15 years old will need a card to operate a boat on their own, if the motor is under 10 hp. If the boat is over 10 hp, youth must be supervised directly by a card-holding adult (16 or older). When operating a personal watercraft (PWC), youth 12 to 15 will need a card and be directly supervised by a card-holding adult over 18." For more information about mandatory edu-

cation, log onto www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/BoatEd/questions.shtml.

Second, make sure your boat registration is current. "Renewal reminders will be mailed toward the end of April. The renewal notification has a special identification number on it allowing boaters to renew their registration online. It's simple and there's no online processing fee. The best part is you can print a temporary permit after ordering online, so you can go boating right away," Massey says. "For folks new to boating or who didn't renew for a few years, contact the Marine Board and speak with a registration specialist who can help you, or simply send your payment to us." The cost for registering a boat is \$3 per foot, rounded to the nearest foot.

Third, make sure your boat is in good shape before you get to the water. "Prepare ahead of time to ensure a stress-free excursion. There are some excellent de-winterizing, do-it-your-

self instructions online, like www.basspro.com that give details about how to take care of the exterior, interior, motor and trailer. Mercury Mariner has detailed information about engine maintenance and blended fuels at www.algonacharbourclub.com/images/mer_bul.pdf," says Massey. For the not-so-mechanically inclined, many marine centers and boat dealers can de-winterize your boat.

Fourth, be sure to carry an aquatic invasive species prevention permit if you're operating a paddle craft. The new law went into effect January 1 requiring operators of boats 10 feet long and longer to purchase and carry an aquatic invasive species prevention permit when the boat is in use. These paper permits cost \$7 and can be purchased through ODFW license agents, field offices and online at www.dfw.state.or.us. Motorized boats with current decals do not need to purchase a permit. The permit fee is rolled into the cost of registering your boat with the Marine Board. For more information, visit www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/programs/09LawsFAQs.shtml.

Finally, be sure to check your equipment. "Safety is paramount," Massey emphatically states. "Make sure your life jackets are in good condition (no mold, tears, etc.) and that there are enough to properly fit everyone on board. It's strongly recommended to wear it because even though the air temperature is warm, the water is cold. Also be sure to have fire extinguishers, a sound producing device, and visual distress signals. If you are going out to fish, be sure to have a good anchor with plenty of line and a buoy. Another reminder is to anchor from the bow, not the stern, which can be extremely dangerous and easily cause a boat to swamp and capsize.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons conduct free vessel safety checks around the state and alert the boater if any safety equipment is needed.

"One last reminder is to watch the weather and be ready to head in if the wind picks up. There's also a lot of debris in the water, so keep a sharp lookout for any hazards."

Boaters can get all this information and more by visiting www.boatoregon.com or calling 503-378-8587.

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