

Author Nel Rand coming to Vernonia

Author Nel Rand will be at the Vernonia Library on Monday, September 27, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss her latest book, *The Burning Jacket*.

The Burning Jacket is the story of 11-year-old Raynie who lives with her mother, Molly, in Anaheim, California, watching over her rescued desert tortoise, Erma Geddon. Raynie's goal is to save endangered species, particularly reptiles, from environmental threats.

Molly, recently divorced from Raynie's father, owns a bakery but dreams of being a successful visual artist. Granny Tooley, Molly's mother and Raynie's grandmother, lives as a squatter in the forest of the Southern Oregon coast range, running from childhood demons and determined to stay "off the grid." The story tells how they come through individual and joint trials and become closer as a result.

Rand's first novel, *Mississip-*

pi Flyway, was an award-winning finalist in the 2007 Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award.

The Vernonia Public Library Book Discussion Group and the Friends of the Library invite you to join them at this discussion. It is not necessary to read the book before the presentation. The outlook for refreshments after the program is hopeful.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Ahhh...you folks that live off the beaten path in among the timber just don't realize what you have. Anyhow, I didn't really either until I moved to the concrete jungle a year ago. Last Wednesday while coming back to your haven in the woods, I watched the blue sky and snow white clouds; noted the fields of corn turning from green to a beautiful straw color, the berry fields heavy

with their fruit. A soft rain was falling, then we drove through a fog bank for a couple of miles, then suddenly sunshine and a soft breeze. Turning off the Sunset Corridor onto the road to "The Little Town Lost in the Woods", I marveled at the change in the weeds, shrubs, bushes, and trees. Dark greens, browns, yellows, oranges, and reds. Sun breaking through the branches and bathing the road with light in the shadows. Turning the corner into town, I had a relaxing, soothing feeling. A step back in time away from the rush, rush, rush of life outside of the woods. Oh, I'm not saying the little town doesn't have its drawbacks but once you leave it for good...it's sure nice to come back to visit the folks you left behind.

But now – the Bite.

The Senior Center is the town gathering place?? Yes. Folks keep the Center going for the folds to gather; shop, listen to the Golden Oldies, have a good meal, catch up on possibly news that might benefit all of us. They try to have things going on to enlighten your days. But, do you show them respect with silence when we sing God Bless America, have someone say Grace over our meal, or be silent and listen to reports or their welcome to you??? Is it too much to ask of you just one day a week?

Note: This is a growing concern of mine. The chatter never stops from Noon through till the meal is over. If you were up front and no one listened to you – how would you feel?

Have a nice day. I'll see you on Wednesdays.

Zoo free on Senior (citizen) Safari day

If you yearn for high adventure but high prices are keeping you home, the Oregon Zoo may have just the ticket. Anyone 65 or over (along with one companion) can visit for free during the zoo's annual Senior Safari, Tuesday, September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"The zoo is pleased to offer this event to our accomplished older citizens," said Kim Smith, zoo director. "The zoo is a great place to learn and appreciate wildlife. By offering this free day, we hope to provide an enjoyable day that also brings our visitors nose to nose with a lion or cheetah!"

Senior Safari, sponsored by Providence Health Plan, provides a day of activities and en-

tertainment planned with those 65 and over in mind.

In the morning, safari-goers can fortify themselves with

complimentary coffee and doughnuts (while supplies last). Throughout the day, seniors

See Senior on page 20

Services for disabled to be topic

Three free informational panel discussions on services available to persons with disabilities will be held in October in Columbia County.

Individuals, parents, teachers, caregivers, and professionals are invited to attend to discuss employment services, advocacy, support, safety in the home and community, health care, and other community resources.

The meetings will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.;

- Oct. 5, at Vernonia Middle School cafeteria, 249 Bridge St.

- Oct. 12, at Columbia Community Mental Health's Community Room, 58646 McNulty Way, St. Helens.

- Oct. 26, at the Clatskanie District Office, 555 SW Bryant.

The forums are presented by the Advisory Council for Columbia Developmental Disability Program, along with other social service providers.

50 Years Ago This Month

The September 25, 1986, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on the front page:

Regulation of garage sales was discussed, with a consensus. **Please see page 20**

A joint meeting of the Vernonia City Council and Planning Commission on September 3 resulted in agreement on the content of a home occupations ordinance, as well as clarification of definitions, and some changes in the city's ordinance regulating fences.

When the changes are adopted, the height limitation for a front fence will be increased from three to four feet if the fencing material provides a "clear vision" such as chain link. Fences or hedges which obstruct view will remain at the 3' height limitation. The definition of "front fence" was clarified as being from the front edge of the structure to the lot line on the street of address.

BEAR CREEK



PUB & BAR

GOOD FOOD

GOOD FRIENDS

GOOD TIMES

831 Bridge St.
Vernonia, OR
503-429-0214

Make The Rain Work For You!

Hosted by the Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District



Location:

Cabin in the Park

Hawkins Park 901 Park Drive, Vernonia, OR 97064

When:

Thursday September 23, 2010 6PM – 8PM

Learn About:

- Who The Columbia SWCD is and how we can help you.
- Rainwater Collection – Presented by Clair Klock from The Clackamas SWCD
- Mud Management – Presented by Tyler Joki from The Columbia SWCD

Beverages and snacks will be provided

For any questions please contact us at 503-397-4555

