

## Between the Bookends

by Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



With only one more craft/story session on Tuesday, July 26, The Knights of Veritas on Thursday, July 28, and the Jamboree parade on Saturday, August 6, the library's Summer Reading programs for youngsters will be completed for another year. Partici-

pation has been amazing at both the morning story/activity times and at the evening presentations, due to the efforts of Jennifer Moloney and Linda Johnston. These programs are vital in helping youngsters maintain reading skills during the summer break from school and in providing a safe environment in which to take part in educational, entertaining activities. The evening entertainment has been made possible by the Ready to Read Grant from the Oregon State Library, The Friends of the Library, and the Oregon College Savings Plan, in conjunction with the Oregon State Library and the American Library Association. It is so gratifying to see that entire families are attending and enjoying these programs.

The "novel destinations" for adults will continue through August and possibly longer if enough interest is shown. The Scavenger Hunt to some of Vernonia's historic buildings will begin at the library at 1:00 on Wednesday, July 27. All ages are invited to participate as they follow clues to learn some of Vernonia's history. Check the schedule in the library and on the City's website under library events for future activities—for all ages. This site will have the topic, time and date of the monthly book discussion meeting (*Narcis-*

*sus Leaves the Pool*, Monday July 25, 5:30). It also has the dates and time for the annual **Friends of the Library Book Sale—Friday, August 5 from 4-6 and Saturday, August 6 from 9-6.** Library staff can now update this site, so it should be up-to-date with library information. Check it out!

New acquisitions for adult readers include *Betrayal of Trust*—J.A. Jance's latest mystery featuring detective J.P. Beaumont, and *The Silent Girl*—Tess Gerritsen's new thriller featuring detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Dr. Maura Isles. Janet Evanovich's latest Stephanie Plum (mystery? comedy?), *Smokin' Seventeen*, and Linda Castillo's action-packed novel of suspense, *Breaking Silence*, are proving to be very popular with Vernonia's readers.

Young adults continue to request books from Erin Hunter's *Warrior Series* faster than she can publish them. Several of the books from the Pacific NW Young Reader's Choice List for 2012, including *Hush, Hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick, *Along for the Ride* by Sarah Dessen and *Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater, have proven to be favorites this summer.

To insure that new materials meet the desires of all ages of readers, new picture books including *My Mom Has X-Ray Vision*, *The Ice Cream King*, and *Gilbert Goldfish Wants a Pet*, have also been added to the library's collection.

Watch for the "Summer Readers" in the Jamboree parade as their entry depicts the summer theme of One World, Many Stories.

**Vernonia Public Library:** 701 Weed Avenue  
**Hours:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Tues., Thu. 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

launched two years ago, OHA leadership set a goal of bringing 80,000 children into care, a goal that has been met and exceeded.

"The Healthy Kids Program shows that Oregonians know how to step up and solve the problems in our health care system," says Bruce Goldberg, M.D., Oregon Health Authority Director. "We've made great strides in insuring children and improving the lives of tens of thousands of families. The next step is building a strong health

insurance exchange and transforming the state's delivery system for better health and lower costs."

The Oregon Health Insurance Survey will be conducted every two years, gathering detailed health insurance and health-related information from more than 10,000 Oregonians throughout the state.

Oregon families with uninsured children can apply for Healthy Kids today by calling 1-877-314-5678 or by visiting [www.OregonHealthyKids.go](http://www.OregonHealthyKids.go)

## Algae blooms in fresh water can cause illness in people and pets

In May many Oregon lake managers started to monitor for cyanobacteria, a signal that algae bloom season is on its way.

Algae are microscopic organisms that grow naturally in the ocean and fresh waters. Under certain conditions, algae can rapidly grow into a large mass in the water. Most algae are harmless but cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, can produce toxins capable of causing illness in people and animals.

When an algae bloom is detected and lab results show that cyanobacteria is present, the Oregon Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS) program issues a health advisory warning people to stay out of affected water to avoid illness.

Jennifer Ketterman, HABS program coordinator, emphasizes that the HABS program does not close lakes, but does issue advisories to inform people of a potential health risk.

People and animals can be exposed to these toxins in several ways: through contact with bloom-affected water while wading or playing in the water, swallowing affected water when swimming, or inhaling water droplets while enjoying high-speed activities like water-skiing. Exposure can result in a range of symptoms including skin rash, diarrhea, cramps, vomiting, numbness, dizziness and fainting. Children, people with weakened immune systems and pets are most vulnerable to illness.

During the past 10 years, Oregon has seen a steady increase in the number of algae blooms that triggered the issuance of a health advisory. In 2005, five such advisories were

issued for fresh water bodies in three counties. Last year, the number increased to 22 advisories in nine counties. It is not known why there has been an increase.

Ketterman cautions, however, that only a fraction of Oregon's fresh waters are monitored, and the public won't always be notified about all harmful algae blooms. "For this reason, people should always be aware of conditions before they go into the water," she said. "If it is foamy, scummy, and thick like paint and pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red in color, it's best to stay out."

In 2009 and again in 2010, confirmed dog deaths due to algae toxins were reported to the HABS program.

Dogs become exposed when they drink bloom-affected water or when they lick their fur after swimming in the water. Once toxins are in the animals' system, illness occurs quite rapidly and there is little that can be done beyond providing supportive care. The HABS program made specific efforts last year to reach veterinarians and pet owners, Ketterman said. "We want people to be aware so they know to keep their pets out of potentially dangerous water."

The HABS program is funded through a federal grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program relies on local, state and federal agencies that manage water bodies to alert it when a potentially toxic bloom has been detected.

Additional information can be found on the HABS website at [www.healthoregon.org/hab](http://www.healthoregon.org/hab) or by calling 971-673-0400.

## Survey shows fewer uninsured kids

Oregon Healthy Kids Program has added 94,000 children to care in the last two years.

The percentage of children without health care in Oregon has dropped dramatically — from 11.3 percent in 2009 to 5.6 percent in 2011 — according to the Oregon Health Insurance Survey, a statewide survey released by the Oregon Health Authority July 11. This puts

Oregon on the leading edge in the country in bringing health care access to children.

"Today over 90,000 more children have affordable health coverage and their families have the peace of mind that an accident on the playground won't bring financial ruin," says Cathy Kaufmann, Healthy Kids administrator. "When kids and teens have health coverage, they're more likely to receive

preventive and other care when they need it. That means fewer emergency room visits and more peace of mind for families."

Oregon's Healthy Kids, one of the Oregon Health Authority's first initiatives, was launched in 2009 to bring affordable, quality health insurance to all Oregon children in the face of ever increasing health care costs.

Healthy Kids offers no-cost and low-cost health coverage for uninsured Oregon children and teens 0-18, providing them with all the care they need, including preventive care such as regular check-ups, vision and dental care, prescriptions and more. Depending on income, working families may pay a portion of the monthly premium, but no family earns too much money to qualify. When the program was

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