

## Between the Bookends

by Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



It's been an exciting and rewarding year for those of us associated with the library. The two grants (Columbia County Cultural Coalition for expanding our Community Reads 2012, and Meyer Memorial Trust for converting newspaper microfilm to digital format) will both significantly benefit the community in ways that would not have been possible without the generosity of these two organizations. The li-

brary was delighted to have been able to host two lively discussions (Controversial Ballot Initiatives of Oregon and Censorship in Literature) through the Conversation Project of Oregon Humanities. Author Robin Cody honored us with a visit to discuss his book, *Another Way the River Has*, for our Community Reads for 2011.

Summer Reading was a huge success this year due to the enthusiasm and creativity of Jennifer Moloney, Linda Johnston and all of the parent volunteers. This program receives significant funding through a Ready to Read Grant from the State Library. The After School program continues to have a large attendance of excited youngsters.

We gratefully acknowledge the vital role played by the Friends of the Library. Their support of programs with supplies, refreshments, overnight lodging (when needed), and more, makes it possible for these activities to continue in our community.

For the first time in many years, librarians in Columbia County have been meeting to discuss and plan for the future. These meetings have resulted in a County-wide Read for 2012 with a western theme. Books have been chosen for the various age ranges, and readers will be encouraged to read these choices — *Hearts of Horses*, *The Devil's Paintbox*, and *The Captain's Dog* — especially during the months of January and February. A flyer with the activities taking place in the various libraries will be available shortly. We are pleased to announce that author Molly Gloss (*Hearts of Horses*) will be visiting with us on Monday, February 27, 2012, in conjunction with this county-wide event.

Patrons have been generous in "adopting" books to be added

to the library's collection. There are a few remaining on the display table for anyone wishing to give to the library during this holiday season.

Regular programs for youngsters will be suspended until after the first of the year, but movies will be shown on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 20, 21 and 22, and on Tuesday, December 27. All of these movies will begin at 3:00 p.m. The library will be closed on Saturday, December 24, and Saturday, December 31, and will be open on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. The Friends of the Library will be meeting Tuesday, January 3, at 6:30 p.m.

Book discussion group will meet Monday, January 30, to discuss *Addition* by Toni Jordan. Also, copies of Molly Gloss's, *The Hearts of Horses*, are available to read prior to her visit in February.

New acquisitions include Stephen King's *11/22/63*, Patricia Cornwell's *Red Mist*, Stephen Hunter's *Soft Target*, and Michael Connelly's *The Drop*.

Library staff expresses our thanks to everyone who continues to make the library and its programs a success, and we wish each of you a peaceful, rewarding holiday season.

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."

— Agnes M. Pahro

**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

**Internet:** library@vernonia-or.gov

## Attorney general releases list of Oregon's 20 worst charities

Oregon donors should avoid giving to charities that spend most of their funding on telemarketing and administration

Attorney General John Kroger issued the annual list of Oregon's 20 Worst Charities on December 14.

"Most charities in Oregon do important work, helping the needy and supporting worthy causes," said Attorney General Kroger. "But generous Oregon donors should be aware that some non-profits are little more than scams that provide little if any help to the causes they claim to support."

In order to avoid being duped by unscrupulous non-profits, donors should review the Department of Justice Tips for Charitable Giving at [www.doj.state.or.us/charigroup](http://www.doj.state.or.us/charigroup).

State law requires charities to file periodic financial reports with the Oregon Department of Justice disclosing how much money the organization raised and how the funds were spent. The Department's Charitable

Activities Section has identified 20 organizations that spent more than 70% of the donations they collected on administrative costs and professional fundraising.

While guidelines issued by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) suggest that charitable organizations should spend at least 65% of their funds on charitable programs, every charity on the Department of Justice's list devoted less than 30% of their expenditures on charitable program activities.

The Department of Justice previously identified the state's 20 Worst Charities in 2010 and 2009.

For the second year in a row, Shiloh International Ministries topped the list. Shiloh International Ministries claims to solicit money to provide medical necessities and moral support for needy children and to provide assistance to the homeless. According to its most recent financial filings, the California-based non-profit

spent an average of \$846,340 per year, 96.8% of which went towards management and fundraising.

No. 2 on the list is American Medical Research Organization, which claims that it raises money to support medical research on the cause, cure and treatment of macular degeneration. The Florida-based non-profit spent an annual average of \$783,217, just 4.2% of which went towards its charitable purpose.

The full list is available at [www.doj.state.or.us/charigroup/pdf/oregons\\_20\\_worst\\_charities\\_2011.pdf](http://www.doj.state.or.us/charigroup/pdf/oregons_20_worst_charities_2011.pdf)

There are currently more than 17,000 charities registered with the Oregon Department of Justice, and many of them are actively seeking donations. By law Attorney General Kroger cannot dictate how charities spend your money, but he is arming Oregonians with some basic advice to ensure your gifts go to a worthy cause.

Before donating to a charity, it is important to make sure the organization is registered with the Attorney General's Office by searching the Department's online database or by calling 971-673-1880. You can also visit [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), a national clearinghouse of information on charities and their performance.

Attorney General Kroger also cautions Oregonians to watch out for charities that send solicitations thanking you for your previous support or invoices claiming you made a recent pledge when you didn't. These methods are intentionally confusing and dishonest ways to obtain donations.

Consumers are advised against giving out their personal information over the phone. Legitimate charities will accept contributions by check, which should always be made payable to the organization and never the individual collecting the donation.

The Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Activities Section is responsible for ensuring that organizations soliciting funds in Oregon register and file periodic financial reports showing how donations are spent. The section also protects the public against organizations that attempt to mislead Oregon donors or that misuse charitable assets.

We wish  
you all  
a very  
**Merry  
Christmas**  
and a  
**Joyous New Year**

❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️

**Vernonia Dental**  
Christopher M. Scheuerman, DMD  
622 Bridge St., Vernonia • 503-429-0880