

## Between the Bookends

by Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Wow! Vernonia's Community Reads for 2012 has been amazing!

This year's plan was to expand the concept of previous years to include books/activities for all ages, and to involve community-affiliated groups in the project. A grant, with matching funds from the Friends of the Vernonia Library, was received from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition in conjunction with the Oregon

Cultural Trust. This grant enabled funding for author Addie Boswell to present an interactive reading program for youngsters; for a visit from award winning Oregon author Craig Lesley; for movie tickets to *The Hunger Games*; and for additional copies of the selected books.

In addition to the enthusiastic participation in these activities, the community involvement in other aspects of the project was astonishing. Local artist Sally Harrison undertook the task of planning and implementing one of the after school programs. Dana Hyde from Vernonia High School arranged a group discussion, led by Jennifer Moloney and Shannon Romtvedt, of *The Hunger Games*. Act V theaters in Forest Grove or Cornelius 9 donated a pair of movie tickets for lucky participants taking part in the discussion. Linda Allen, also from Vernonia High School, coordinated an art project to complement the popular young adult book. (The results of this art project will be on display in the library through the end of April.) Jennifer and Shannon also led a discussion at the library with "Capitol Style" refreshments. The Vernonia Study Club provided refreshments for Craig Lesley's visit. Both local newspapers were generous in including information regarding all of the events.

This year's Community Reads has been a truly rewarding experience which can only be attributed to the collective support of many in the community. As a reminder of how much influence a project such as this may have, the following comment was made by one youngster following Addie Boswell's visit, "Because of Miss Addie, I have decided to be an author". Thank you all for helping make this year's activities such a success. Non-perishable food to be donated to Vernonia Cares may still be brought to

the library as part of the "Hunger Drive".

New acquisitions are varied, and include *The Lost Years* by Mary Higgins Clark, *Eyes of Justice* by Lisa Wiehl and April Henry, *The Lifeboat* by Charlotte Rogan, *Capitol Murder* by Phillip Margolin, *Damaged Goods* by Heather Sharfeddin, *Winter Girls* by Laurie Halse Anderson, *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed, and a new vegan cookbook entitled *Chloe's Kitchen*.

Movie night will be Thursday, April 19 at 6:30. Check the library to see more information regarding this movie night. Book discussion will take place Monday, April 23 at 5:30 with *The Solace of Open Places*, by Gretel Ehrlich, being discussed.

The next major event to take place in the library will be a Conversation Project sponsored by Oregon Humanities, entitled *Life After War: Photography and Oral Histories of Coming Home*. This will take place Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. and will be presented by photographer James Lommasson.

**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

## Candidates tell their viewpoint

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of the county and it's their responsibility to hear concerns.

### 4. Do you think the incumbents are meeting those responsibilities?

Fisher – I think we have an extremely good team of folks, we work well together and are sensitive to our communities and try to be responsive.

Luttrell – I think they are doing the best they can with what they've got. Sometimes they are not all connecting with the people. I know leaders don't always, but I think differences of opinion can be resolved without people being at odds.

Preheim – No, I don't. In general, that's the feeling I get from talking to people. I haven't heard a lot of happiness with the current representation.

### 5. What improvements or changes would you like to see in county government?

Fisher – I would like to be able to provide more services, but it's all tied back to the budget. We need to improve our Information Technology systems to improve our responsiveness.

All governments have to find ways to work together and share resources, such as road equipment. We have started those discussions. We need to find ways for the five police departments in the county and the Sheriff's Office to work better together. We should have one law enforcement entity for the whole county. I'm hearing more people say, "We need to look at that."

Luttrell – I'd like to see better service. I've had questions for a county department (I'm on it) and called four different staff members and couldn't reach any of them. There should be somebody to answer the phone. Another time with another department, I tried for two days to get business done and was unable to. I think we need to improve our service to the constituents.

Preheim – I'd like to see county government be more responsive to the citizens' needs and concerns.

### 6. Nehalem Valley residents feel they get little in the way of county services. What would you do to change this perception?

Fisher – A lot of that is perceptions. But, being a person from

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## VERNONIA HEALTH FAIR

May 5, 10 am to 3 pm  
Vernonia School Cafeteria  
249 Bridge St. (green building)

- Lions Club - Sight & Hearing Exams
- Red Cross - Bloodmobile & Emergency Preparedness Information
- Verdura Family Wellness - Glucose, Cholesterol and Bone density testing (fasting 10-12 am, non-fasting til 3 pm)
- Oregon Dairy Council - Nutrition information
- Penny Costley - Jazzercise & BMI testing
- Carol McIntyre, ND - Medical and Exercise Info
- Vernonia Dental - Dental Information
- Vernonia Prevention Coalition &
- \* Vernonia Police - Drug Take-back 12 - 2 pm

Vernonia Volunteer Firefighter's  
5th Annual Pancake Feed!  
8 am - 12 pm

**Terry's Gym**  
A COMPLETE CO-ED GYM FACILITY  
503-901-1705  
16720 Noakes Rd Vernonia, OR

## Columbia County

### Mental Health

800-294-5211

### Suicide Hotline

1-800-

784-2433

or

1-800-273-

TALK(8255)

## Domestic Abuse

### Hotline

503-397-6161

or

866-397-6161

### Military Helpline

888-HLP-4-VET

(888-457-4838)