

Readers Lend Their Voices...

Dear Editor,

I appreciate the fact The Voice published my lengthy opinion letter titled *Had Enough Division* in its November issue. Although I understand how the Voice came to list the author as "Anonymous," it had always been my intention to take responsibility for the letter. If I do choose to be anonymous, I will use a pseudonym, say, Silence Dogood, she has a good pedigree.

-- Jim Tierney
Vernonia

Variety Show Features Talent and Promise

The third annual Hands On Art Vernonia Community Variety Show was held on November 15 at the Washington Grade School. The program featured a wide range of acts from music to dance to comedy, and was a fundraiser for the Vernonia Cares holiday food drive and the Vernonia School District's efforts to bring the Dallas Brass to Vernonia for a performance in February.

Mistress of Ceremonies was Vernonia Mayor Sally Harrison who introduced the acts. Among the highlights of the program were numerous dance numbers by the Banks Performing Arts Academy, a performance by the new Vernonia Ballet, and routine by Junior Jazzercise. Musical numbers were performed by Vernonia Strings of Fire with Burt Tschache performing on guitar, MacKenzie Carr singing a cappella, and Scarlet singing. A comedy skit was performed by Celia and Yoland Gendron, and a Flamenco Dance by nine-year-old Grace Semerjian received great reviews.

Vernonia Band Director Rob Izzett prefaced his performance on the Euphonium with a short talk about the visit by Dallas Brass, explaining that the group is nationally known, and plans to give workshops with student musicians during the day, than perform a concert in the evening, inviting the school band to perform with them on stage as part of the show. Izzett encouraged the audience to purchase tickets from school students, as the students earn opportunities to participate in the Dallas Brass program through their ticket sales. The Dallas Brass visit is scheduled for February 1st. Tickets are \$10.

Vernonia Cares finished the evening with a large basket of donated canned goods, and everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to experience the local talent and the many promising newcomers.

Christmas Food Box Donations Needed

Vernonia Cares Food Bank plans are well under way to offer Christmas food boxes to low income households within the Vernonia community. Registration opened November 1 and the deadline is December 6.

Turkey donations have been flocking in. Thanks to Vernonia resident, Patty Fogel, a broker with Century 21 All Professional, she stepped forward with a generous donation of 150 turkeys for this years Christmas food boxes. Thank you Patty! This donation will allow Vernonia Cares to stretch resources into the New Year for clients.

The holiday food box will contain the basic groceries for a Christmas meal. "Our target group is the households who fall within the food bank income guidelines," said Vernonia Cares Director Sandy Welch. However, we really want to reach out to anyone without the funds to purchase groceries for a Christmas Holiday meal. After all, what's Christmas without at least a special meal?" adds Sandy.

Vernonia Sentry has offered to help in the collection and storage of turkeys purchased at the check stand. Sentry will also accept monetary donations by citizens who wish to sponsor a Christmas food box for a family at the cost of \$30.

One hundred percent of food and cash donations stay in Vernonia for distribution to families in the immediate area.

For additional information, contact Pat or Bob Stacklie at 503-429-7563.

HOLIDAY MARKET

Fridays 4 to 7pm
DECEMBER 7, 14 & 21

Local & hand-crafted
food, goods, & gifts!
Good times & good people!
Join in the fun!

Cost is \$5 per table. If interested please
contact Scott at 503-367-0098
or the VCLC at 503-429-1030



Events Calendar

A Spirited Old-Fashioned Christmas

December 1, 5:00 pm

Lighted parade at 5 pm starting at WGS and ending at City Hall. Community Christmas Tree Lighting 5:30. The VHS band and choir will be performing and will also be serving refreshments.

"Christmas in the Country" Booster Club Bazaar

December 1, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and December 2, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Anyone wanting to volunteer a few hours of their time to call Corrie Smith @ (503) 429-1052 or email VernoniaBazaar@aol.com.

Where: Vernonia Middle School

Vernonia Holiday Market at the Vernonia Community Learning Center

December 7, 14, 21, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Friday Open Air Market moves indoors for the Holidays. Join us for handmade crafts, delicious food, music, and socializing with your neighbors. Do you have a craft to sell? Tables are available-call Scott at 429-0520.

Grey Dawn Gallery - Winter Exhibit Opening Celebration

December 7, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm and December 8, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Please join Grey Dawn Gallery for the opening of their new winter exhibit. They will be displaying work from internationally acclaimed photographer Christopher Burkett. They will also be introducing intricate bronze wildlife jewelry from artist Cavin Richie. Also on exhibit will be work from Jacques & Mary Regat, Jeff Patterson, J.E. Tosoni, Ian Christopher and Dave Johnson.

Show opens with their annual Christmas party on Friday, December 7th, 6:00 - 9:00 pm and continues with refreshments on Saturday, December 8th, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Christopher will be present on Friday evening. Regular gallery hours are Monday - Saturday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Exhibit will be on display through February 29, 2008.

Where: Grey Dawn Gallery 879 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064
More Information: 503-429-2787

FREE Conscious Communication Workshop

December 7, 6:30 pm

Cedar Mist Studios is holding a FREE workshop entitled "Conscious Communication." This will prepare you to communicate directly with people in your life and reduce stress and liberate your life energy - good skills for the holidays! Call 503-429-2103 to reserve your place.

Victorian Christmas at the Grange

December 7 - 7:00 pm

Vernonia Ballet Presents The Nutcracker

December 14, 7:00 pm

The Vernonia Ballet will perform The Nutcracker in the Gymnasium at the Vernonia Community Church. The performance is free.

Open Mic Night at the Grange

January 12 - 7:00 pm

For more information and pictures from past events visit our events page at www.vernoniasvoice.com/events.htm



First Fridays of Vernonia is a new cultural event held every month on the first Friday. Centered around the Vernonia Community Learning Center and its gallery space, First Friday brings our community together to share food, conversation, and the arts.

The First Friday Committee is looking for performers, artists, venues, events businesses, and idea-people to help make this event grow and expand. Help showcase the arts in Vernonia. If interested in getting involved please contact Julie at vernoniaart@aol.com.