

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor:

I wanted to say thank you to everyone that participated in this year's Lighted Christmas Parade on December 1 in Vernonia. Although the weather wasn't very cooperative (rain mixed with snow), a large number of community members turned out anyway, and seemed to enjoy themselves. The log trucks in the parade were just great. An added bonus was all the others who came out and took part. Matt Poetter was the winner of the best decorated log truck. The parade just gets better and better each year.

I also wanted to say thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped organize the parade, especially Helen Hudson and Janelle Cedergreen, and to Teresa House for her generous gift of Portland Trailblazer tickets for prizes.

I look forward to the Lighted Christmas Parade continuing, with more and more participants joining in the fun every year.

Sincerely,
Shirlee Daughtry

Dear Vernonia Community Residents:

We would like to say thank you for your cooperation, support, and overwhelming hospitality. Good luck as you continue to recover from this disaster. We hope that the service we were able to provide made a difference.

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Red Incident Management Team

Chief Taylor Robertson
Incident Commander

To the Editor:

I was honored to have the chance to spend a few days helping with cleanup in your town. I would like to thank the people of Vernonia for allowing me to share that time with them. The spirit, attitudes and community spirit the citizens displayed in the face of such a devastating challenge was inspirational and made me want to do more. I only wish I could have. I want to say a special thank you to David and Brooke at the Old Mill House for putting me up and putting up with me. I will not soon forget the great people I met in your town.

Thanks again,
Dave Thoreson
Salem, OR

I would like to send a thank you out to everyone whose efforts helped to bring my dog home safely; Doobie, had been missing for six days in the cold and rainy weather.

It was amazing the help we received from the Vernonia community. People, who had much more to worry about than my missing dog, were taking time out of their day to help find her. Neighbors and friends searched for days, people put food outside and kept their dogs put up in an effort to coax her in. I admire the people who had so much empathy for us, when they themselves had recently lost so much.

County Inmates searched for her as they sorted through the wreckage of the devastating flood throughout town. A group from the Rock Creek Kennel spent time helping us look as well.

A group of inmates were working at a farm area off Mist Drive when we received the phone call saying that Doobie was seen. Just minutes after getting the call, my mom's boyfriend Barney Hayes called and told us we could quit praying now because Doobie was safe in his arms.



I would like to thank Judy who called and gave us our hope back, after five days of our dog being lost. There was a couple from St. Helens who did not know us, but in the moment we had met, said they had been praying and put an ad online, we thank you. Thank you to all our friends and neighbors for all of your help.

Most of all I would like to thank the inmates for making my Christmas. I wish you all happy holidays. I hope you know how much you have truly made a difference not only for me and my family, but for all the families that you have selflessly helped in the past couple of weeks. We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy new year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With Regards,
Kelly Mickey and Family

HOW TO SEND LETTERS Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions, and ideas. Please include your name, address, and phone number; limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond, or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters, space permitting. Deadline is the 15th of the month. **Email to: news@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia 97064.**

vernonia
community learning center

winter 2008

A new year for Vernonia; a new year for our citizens

Hello and happy new year! As we look forward to a new year with its unique challenges and opportunities, the VCLC also is seeing and experiencing how an incomprehensible occurrence can also bring so much unexpected goodness.

The Vernonia Community Learning Center is hosting the Columbia County Flood Relief Team, serving those with unmet needs resulting from the recent natural disaster in Columbia County. This grassroots relief and recovery effort moved into the VCLC after a few days of ad hoc organization at Vernonia City Hall. This team of devoted volunteers are tirelessly coordinating the community rebuilding efforts made up of faith based groups, volunteer and contracted builders and licensed contractors, donated and bought building materials and most importantly, the victims of the flood.

At this time, the VCLC's winter programs are postponed until further notice while the victim's assistance team works to streamline operations and consolidate into the computer lab. Previously scheduled winter classes and normal programs have been postponed while the community recovers. Many VCLC teachers, students and volunteers were personally affected by the recent flood. We are all working together to heal each other and ourselves. Responding to the community's educational and other needs has been and still is the role the VCLC will sustain and your ideas for classes and programs were and are always still the driving force behind our program development.

The schedule developing for winter included; **Writing 121 (a PCC credit class), The Basics of Drawing, Landscape Painting, Typing, Traditional Rug Braiding, Introduction to Email and the Internet, Computers Made Simple, Group Guitar, Jazzercise, Business Counseling, GED and workshops on solar energy and rainwater catchment systems.**

The flood on December 3rd was a terrible tragedy, not to mention a huge disruption. For the VCLC, interrupting the finalization of the Winter 2008 calendar. Now, as we all attempt the return to normalcy in our lives, this community building will work to serve the community in the most accommodating way it can. Classes would have started the 3rd week of January. As soon as we have spaces to hold these classes we will post a message in conspicuous places. Keep a lookout. In the meantime, please welcome new service partners at the VCLC! These partners include Columbia County Rider and Columbia Community Mental Health. The Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation began seeing Vernonia clients in the VCLC in November 2006. Come by and say hello to these new faces. Victims Assistance will be available Tuesday through Sunday.

Everything still stands, we are still and always seeking talented teachers, with and without licenses. We are still seeking program ideas and volunteers to help run them. We are still seeking as many students as possible to learn, and to take advantage of the education and creativity offered here.



it's the center
to build
your community.

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