

**Baseball and Softball Sign-Ups**

Yes it's only February, but it's already time for the Boys and Girls of Spring to get ready to play ball. That's right, Baseball and Softball season is upon us, and sign-ups for Boys Baseball and Girls Softball will be held in the Vernonia High School Cafeteria from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, February 9<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>. An announcement will be coming home with your child from school in the next few days that will have more information regarding age requirements and participation fees. Hope to see you there!!

**Child Care Training Provided**

Child Care Resource and Referral is hosting a Super Saturday at Avamere, the retirement facility located across from St. Helens High School, on Saturday, February 13, 2010. These trainings are required for center staff and registered child care providers. They are also required by "DHS listed providers" who wish to become "enhanced." Super Saturdays are a convenient way for those in need of these trainings to complete them both in one day. The Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse Training, 9:30 -11:30 AM (Fee \$10) is followed by the Infant and Adult CPR training noon- 4 PM (fee \$35). Pre-registration is required. Sign up for one or both trainings. Please call Child Care Resource and Referral at 1-800-624-9516 or 971-223-6100 for more information.

**Interested in Changes to First Friday?**

Come to a gathering at the Blue House February 11 starting between 6:00 and 6:30PM to discuss possibilities regarding formats, days, times, presentations. Come throw out some ideas for getting folks together to build community, share info and have a good time. It's about music and arts, it's about business and information, it's about children and animals. It's about you. What do you want to see and do and when do you want to do it?

If you can't make it then, email Erika at: epaleck@gmail.com or call: 503-704-5970. It's your event. What do you want to see there?

**Jamboree Needs a Theme for 2010**

This year's Vernonia Friendship Jamboree will be held on August 6, 7 and 8. Each year the Jamboree Committee reaches out to the public for theme submissions. If your theme is chosen, you receive \$50. Submit ideas or questions to donnatwebb@gmail.com or mail to Jamboree Committee, 1001 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064. Deadline for submissions is March 1.

The Jamboree Committee is always looking for volunteers. You are welcome to the next meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:00 P.M. There are many tasks to be done, BIG AND SMALL, so step up and get involved in your community.

**Make Parenting a Pleasure!**

A new Parenting Education Group is coming to Rainier and Vernonia, provided by Child and Family Development Parenting Education Programs, through Community Action Team, Inc.

In this group you will discover:

- Greater understanding of your children
- Learn your child's developmental stages
- Effective parenting skills and child development info.
- Practical stress management and communication skills
- Positive approaches to discipline

Sign up now – space is limited. Call (503) 556-3736 to register

Starts February 22, 2010 from 9:30-11:30 AM at the Vernonia Head Start Center

and February 16, 2010, 9:00-11:00 AM at the Rainier Head Start Center.

Soon to be parents and parents of children under age 8 are welcome! Fee based on a sliding scale

Sponsored in partnership with Community Action Team, Inc. Child & Family Development Programs and Children's Trust Fund of Oregon

**Social Gaming Law Now in Effect in St. Helens**

Social gaming licenses are required for any private party or establishment wishing to host social gaming activities within the St. Helens city limits.

Social gaming refers to card games such as Texas Hold' Em Poker and differs from lottery games and gambling in that the host establishment or party gains no profit from the games. Additionally, the risk afforded to players is small. A limit of \$5.00 is applied to any bet.

The ordinance, requiring license and establishing rules of conduct was passed by the City Council in November.

There is a non-refundable application fee of \$50.

Licenses are subject to approval and issued upon collection of annual fees: \$100.00 annually for the first table and \$50.00 annually for each additional table. Licenses expire July 1st. License fees are pro-rated.

Applications, including full copy of the ordinance, are now available online [www.ci.st-helens.or.us](http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us) and at City Hall.

**Vernonia Jazzercise Community Garden Fundraiser Class**

Vernonia Jazzercise is excited to announce the Vernonia Community Garden, Grow Fit Fundraiser Saturday February 20th beginning at 9:00 AM at the Washington Grade School. This fundraiser will be featuring special guest instructor Richard Mundy, USA Pacific Northwest/Australia District Manager and member of the Jazzercise Taping Team. Suggested donation of \$15.

Massage by Melanie, LMT #13903, will be on hand to work out those sore muscles after a great workout for a donation. Please make checks payable to Vernonia Cares--memo line: Vernonia Community Garden. Couch Potato option also available! All ages are welcome. Vernonia Community Garden Project benefiting Vernonia Cares Food Bank.

**Get Ready For Girl Scout Cookies**

Girl Scout cookies are off and running again this year. Open cookie sales will be held from February 19 through March 10. You might see girls set up at Sentry market or, if you would like to purchase a box of cookies, you can contact Kinnell Steward at (503) 819-0143 or [mtskys@verizon.net](mailto:mtskys@verizon.net) and she will have a girl who lives near you contact you. The new cookie is "thank u berry much" and is delicious! Cookies sell for \$4.00 per box and they will be gone before you know it. Don't miss your chance to enjoy these scrumptious cookies! Thank you, Vernonia, for always being such a great support for these girls who work so hard.

# Upcoming Events

**Alumni and Friends of Vernonia Schools Fundraising Meeting. February 17, 7:00 PM-** Washington Grade School

**St. Mary's Rummage Sale, February 26-27, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM-** 980 Missouri Avenue

**Empty Bowls - March 12, 5:00-7:00 PM** Raising funds to fight hunger in Columbia County. McBride Elementary School, St. Helens. Tickets and info (503) 397-7211

**School Events**

**February 8-11** Bring Your Family to School Week and Book Fair @ WGS (Tues-Family Reading Night /Wed-PTA Bedtime Stories / Thu-Bring Family to Lunch Day)

**February 11** Last Home Basketball Game - Senior Recognition Night

**February 11** Senior Trip Fundraiser Chili Feed before BB game  
**February 12** No School

**February 13** District 3 Jazz Band Competition, All day, VHS Gym, FREE

**February 15** No School - President's Day

**February 20** Senior Trip Can/Bottle Drive Playshed 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

**February 25** Town Hall meeting, School Cafeteria 7:00 PM

**February 27** CloseUp Students Spaghetti Feed and Bingo Night, School Cafeteria 5:00-7:00 PM

**Library Events**

*Testing for census positions will take place in the library on Friday, February 12 at 1:30 PM and Friday, February 19 at 1:30 PM*

**February 15** Library will be closed Monday, for Presidents' Day.

**February 20** Movie Matinee on Saturday at 2:00 PM-- "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs."

**February 22** Book discussion will be Monday at 5:30 PM --"The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie

**February 25** Movie night on Thursday at 6:30 PM--"Just Like Heaven" starring Reese Witherspoon

## Readers Lend Their Voices...

Thank you very much for your gracious review of Dog Salmon and Rutabaga in Volume 4, Issue No. 1 of the Vernonia Voice. Several current and former Vernonia residents have contacted me about the CD since the paper came out. Considering the length and breadth of our phone conversation the day you interviewed me, you did a remarkable job of composing a reasonably accurate summation of the story. A few little details were somewhat askew, but nothing major. The searing images of driving through the Tillamook Forest after a forest fire were related to the decades-long aftermath of the Tillamook Burn. The last return of the six-year curse called the Burn was in 1951, though that fire did not burn the area near US 26. Much of the Tillamook Burn was a fire-ravaged wasteland for many years, certainly long enough to sear the memories of those in my generation.

My friends John and Kim Cunnick played, as I put it in the CD liner-notes, "hand-made, heart-felt songs and old-time music about home." But their musical instruments were not hand-made. Kim played an heirloom fiddle and a Martin 000 (triple ought) guitar. John played a 1908 A-style Gibson mandolin and an A.A. Farland concert grand banjo with bevel-rim head. That's the banjo that Kim lent to me after John's death so I could practice on it until I got my own banjo.

Not all of the songs on Dog Salmon and Rutabagas are about the Vernonia area, but many of them are, and the album certainly reflects the heart of my Vernonia experience. Your community holds a special place in my heart. Thank you for publishing a fine newspaper that serves Vernonia so well.

Hobe Kytr  
Astoria, OR

**HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email to: [scott@vernoniasvoice.com](mailto:scott@vernoniasvoice.com) or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.