

New Full Sunday School Program!

Vernonia Community Church announces a long awaited answered prayer! Starting April 3rd at 9AM Family Bible Class, nursery thru adult. Learning God's Word! Family Bible Class from 9-10AM~ Family Fellowship 10-10:20~Family Praise & Worship 10:30-11:45~ Youth Group 4-5:45 PM~Biblical Eldership 6-8PM. 957 State Ave. 503-429-6790. e-mail: saltn_light@hotmail.com

Columbia County Commission on Children and Families

The Columbia County Commission on Children and Families holds public meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM. The meetings are held at the OSU Extension Office, 505 N. Columbia River Hwy., St. Helens, Oregon. The next meeting is April 21, 2011.

2011 Spring Garden Fair

Don't miss the Columbia

County Master Gardener™ Association's 16th annual fair on April 30th at St. Helens High School, inside the Commons and outside in the courtyard. The sale starts at 9 am and ends at 3 pm. Admission and parking are free.

Master Gardeners will offer over 6,000 plants from 34 varieties of standard and heirloom tomatoes, still only \$1.25 per plant. Come early for the best selection. There will also be certified members on hand to provide general gardening information at the Education table and tomato-specific information at the tomato sale. Of course, there will also be the raffle, with tickets on sale for \$1 each and hourly prizes. You don't need to be present to win.

UNWC Annual Meeting

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council's (UNWC) Annual Meeting has been changed from March 12th to **Saturday May 21, 10 AM- 2 PM**. The meeting is open to the public. UNWC will show the community what they have accomplished and

what is planned for the future, explaining their goals, asking for community input, electing new Board Members and amending their Bylaws

Free Job Search Workshops

Forest Grove City Library, 2114 Pacific Ave. (503) 992-3247

Job Search Workshop - In English
Thursday, April 14 1-3pm
Thursday, May 5 1-3 pm

Job Search Workshop - In Spanish and for limited English speakers
Thursday, April 28 1-3pm
Thursday, May 26 1-3pm

Topics include: the application process, building a resume, and the interview process.

Register at the Forest Grove City Library (503) 992-3337 or fgl-reference@wccls.org.

This program is financed in whole or in part with funds provided through Worksystems, Inc. from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Upcoming Events

BJ the Clown, April 14, 6:45 PM—at the Vernonia Library, in celebration of National Library Week, sponsored by the Vernonia Friends of the Library.

Spaghetti Feed and Bingo, April 16, 4:00-7:00 PM—Fundraiser for "Joy for Jaden." Sunset Park in Banks.

Make Vernonia Shine Day, April 16 - Vernonia's annual clean-up day, sponsored by Vernonia Pride.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 23, 10 AM--at Hawkins Park, for children 0-10. The Easter Bunny will be there for photos. This is a PTA sponsored event.

Vernonia Sportsman's Banquet, April 23--Guest Speaker, Larry D. Jones. BBQ Dinner.

Community Talent Show, April 23--Fundraiser for "Joy for Jaden." All acts welcome, sign up at VHS or call 503-429-3521.

Quilt Sale and Show, May 7, 10 AM-4:00 PM—at the Scappoose Senior Center, 33342 SW Meadow Drive, Scappoose. Homemade soups, baked goods and desserts also for sale.

Vernonia Fire Pancake Feed, May 15, 8:00 AM--Benefits the VRFPD

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To The Editor

The family of Phylis Busch would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and support following our recent loss of a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. A special thank you to Arminda Bloomer for the loving care she gave to her.

Fred Busch and Family

To the Editor

This letter is in response to the article that Scott Laird wrote in the March 22, 2011 edition of THE VERNONIA'S VOICE. Although Scott's article was mostly directed at our city government the bulk of what he had to say was good information for all of us to remember in all situations. How do we agree to disagree was the title. That is a great question. I like to think that most of us here in Vernonia are pretty good people; honest, hard workers, involved parents & active community members. That all sounds very nice until a little thing called the "Vernonia Rumor Mill" gets in the way. We do live in a community where word spreads like wild fire and quickly becomes rumor. That is just a fact of living here. It's what you do with the information that matters. These are Scott's points and I think they are definitely worth repeating, remembering and living by!

Make sure that you are having a face to face conversation with each other.

Get the facts! Just because we

believe something doesn't make it true.

Don't make assumptions about anyone or anything without all the information.

Ask questions and listen to another's side or story and really try to understand the situation.

Speak up. If you don't you may regret not saying anything.

Look in the mirror. Do you really believe what you are saying or are you just repeating what someone else has said?

Living in Vernonia should be something to be proud of. Together we can do great things in our community, divided our community will suffer. So folks, follow these simple rules, get your facts straight and help to stop the "Vernonia Rumor Mill".

Amy Cieloha
Vernonia

To the Editor-

I live in the very small community of Langley on Whidbey Island, Washington, about 40 miles north of Seattle. My husband and I just drove through Vernonia this past week on our way home from Portland. I always avidly read whatever local newspaper is available in any small town and happily found Vernonia's Voice.

I wanted to compliment you on the opinion piece in the March 22 issue "How Do We Agree to Disagree?" It really resonated for me, as my small

community struggles with diverse and opposing views as to how best to proceed in civic areas. The acrimony and anger seems to increase all the time. We tend to "preach to the choir" while vilifying and mocking "the other side (AKA, the idiots). Your thoughts are very relevant to our situation as a small community and, of course, played out on a national scale as well.

Would it be OK if I copied your article to share with some friends here? We have often lamented the sorry state of our civic discourse, while of course guilty of the same broad-brush statements at times as anybody else. I hope your people in your community heed your wise advice, as I personally will try to do myself.

Thank you!
Janice O'Mahon
Langley, WA

To My Fellow Vernonians,

My name is Katie Paleck and I am a freshman at Vernonia High School. I was on the JV volleyball team this past fall and joined Wave Volleyball Club in November of 2010. The Wave Volleyball Club (Wave VBC), is an off season volleyball team not affiliated with public school system. Wave VBC is a non-profit organization that was started in 2009 to fill a need for Western Washington County volleyball with quality coaching at a reasonable cost. Wave VBC practices out of Glencoe High School and focuses on skill and character development in a positive yet competitive environment. The coaching staff is amazing and has a combined experience over 20 years. Furthermore, they have helped multiple players get recruited and go on to play in college.

I have really enjoyed playing and improving my skills with the Wave VBC and I have been selected to join the traveling team that will play in the Bayview Classic at the end of May.

Hundreds of teams travel across the US to participate in this tournament. On April 22, 2011, Wave VBC is hosting a Bingo fundraiser at Glencoe High School to aid in the expense of traveling to San Francisco and I would like to invite everyone to attend. The cost of bingo is \$10 and children are able to participate as well. There will be gift cards given out to each person who wins at bingo. Registration is at 5:30 PM and game play starts at 6:30 PM and runs until approximately 8:30 PM.

In addition to the Bingo night, I am selling raffle tickets towards a variety of different gift baskets (themes include handyman gift basket, spa package, and a movie themed basket, just to name a few). The tickets are \$1 each and winners will be announced at our Bingo fundraiser. You do not need to be present to win.

Please contact my mom, Suzie Paleck, by phone at 503-429-7017, or myself at 503-927-7209 if you would like to purchase any raffle tickets or if you have any additional questions.

Please note: Wave VBC is registered as a non-profit corporation, which means that donations are fully tax-deductible (depending on your individual tax situation). www.wavevolleyballclub.com Tax ID # 80-0507546

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,
Katie Paleck
Vernonia

The Junior class of 2012 would like to thank the community and especially U.S. Bank and the Fire Department & EMTs (First Responders) for their support and willingness to play in the Donkey Basketball Game, it was great fun and a success.

VHS Junior Class 2012

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 or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.