

Sign Up Now for Master Gardener Class

Home gardeners in Columbia County with a thirst for more gardening knowledge, and a willingness to pass that knowledge on to others, can still join the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener program.

The Master Gardener program is designed to teach volunteers how to make better use of their gardening resources and abilities. They, in turn, teach others. Volunteers are given training in soil management, vegetable gardening techniques, landscape maintenance, pest control, and many other aspects of gardening. Then during the gardening season, these new Master Gardeners help to teach others to do a better job of growing and caring for plants, fighting off pests, and making our

communities a better place to live.

Classes are held once a week for nine consecutive weeks in St. Helens. Classes will be held on Mondays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM beginning on January 9. There is a fee of \$75 for reference materials. Students completing the class will be expected to pay back about 50 hours on community horticultural projects.

For more information or to get the application packet you can contact the OSU Extension Office by calling 503 397-3462, emailing either Chip Bubl (chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu) or Vicki Krenz at (vicki.krenz@oregonstate.edu), or by stopping by the office at 505 N. Columbia River Hwy in St. Helens.

Upcoming Events

Chamber of Commerce Year End Social, December 14, 6:30 PM-- Vernonia area business owners are invited to a Year-End Social hosted by the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce. This will be an evening to share ideas and refreshments and discuss opportunities at the WOEC Headquarters.

VHS Band Holiday Concert, December 15, 7:00 PM--The community of Vernonia is invited to celebrate the Holidays with the VHS Band in the Logger Dome. The band will be playing songs and showing scenes from holiday movies - including Home Alone, Nightmare Before Christmas and The Polar Express. The concert is free. Hot cocoa and bake sale will be held in the lobby. Pajamas are encouraged for attire!

Celebrating Families 2011, December 20, 21, 22, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM-- at the Vernonia School Cafeteria. Holiday gift making, cookie decorating and gift wrapping for the whole family. For more information contact DeAnna Pearl (503) 369-7370.

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor

Kari Titus and her entire family would like to thank the Vernonia Community and Black Bear Coffee Shop for donating their time, money and support to help with Kari's recovery. ALL of the love and prayers being sent out to our family is greatly appreciated and has done wonders by filling us with hope and strength to help battle this horrible cancer. Kari can't thank everyone enough for all they have done to help her in this time of her life and wishes to give back love to all. She is getting stronger every day and her days are getting brighter, knowing how many people love her. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

With love,

Kari Titus and Family
Vernonia

I'm especially grateful this year

for the new members of the Vernonia Grange who have transformed the well-loved but aging interior of the Grange Hall into a warm and welcoming space. With Britt Bensen-Steele's vision of what it could be and the donated materials and hours of skilled work and artistry by Britt, Diana Peach, Julie Prohaska, Larry Steele, Randy Lee, Jim Buxton, Cici Bell, Dr. Carol McIntyre, and many others, it's been both physically and spiritually renewed. The Grange gratefully received a generous donation from the Vernonia Lions towards this refurbishment and upgraded appliances from Evan Doyle and Ken Pitts. I also want to thank Robb Wilson and Maggie Peyton for their many years of dedication to maintaining this century-plus building by providing post-flood cleanup, new exterior paint, infrastructure repair, and other improvements that have kept the Grange a treasured community space.

Tobie Finzel
Vernonia

To the Editor

I would like to thank the community for their continued support for the girls who are involved in Scouting

in Vernonia. Your past purchases have made it possible for us to rent the camp lodge at Mountindale as well as all of the "cookie" trips the girls have planned and taken. The Vernonia Girl Scouts will once again be pre-selling flowering, potted tulips and hyacinths from VanderZanden Farms as a fundraiser for our spring camping trip. All Girl Scouts will be selling them from December 1st 2011 through January 3rd, 2012 and they will be available for pick-up from WGS on Monday, February 13th from 1:30 - 3:30 PM. This is a great way to support Scouts while getting fresh flowers for a loved one, teacher or friend near Valentine's Day. Remember, the bulbs can be planted in your yard and enjoyed for many years to come. These are the same beautiful varieties planted by our Scouts at the "Welcome to Vernonia" sign. The cost will be \$6 for a brightly wrapped, blooming pot of 5 tulips or 3 hyacinths. Orders can be placed with any Girl Scout and are greatly appreciated. Girl Scouts is a program that instills leadership skills and a sense of responsibility to the girl's community as well as a place to have a whole lot of fun. For further information on Girl Scouts please call (503) 429-5709. Thank you again!

Susan Ely
Vernonia

To the Editor

Thank you Don Puckett for stepping up to the plate and starting the recall of Rainier City Councilors Russ Moon and David Langford. It's not surprising that in less than a week there were more than 150 signatures gathered. I had hoped Mr. Moon and

Mr. Langford would save the City the cost and embarrassment of a recall and resign. But then again, it wouldn't be like this team to bow-out gracefully.

As a City Councilor I felt the brunt of the rude and erratic behavior of David Langford and been a target of Russ Moon's bullying. Moon overstepping his authority is second nature. This madness has to stop for Rainier to move forward. The actions of these men have taken a dramatic toll on the City and cost Rainier tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars. I join the Friends of Rainier, Mayor and supporting sitting Councilors in this recall effort. A vote to remove Russ Moon and David Langford off the Rainier City Council is a Vote for Rainier.

Judith Taylor
Former City Councilor
Rainier

To the Editor

We'd like to thank the many people who supported our Thanksgiving community dinner with donated food and labor. Special thanks go to Cathy Meyer for her very hard work, and to the Vernonia Community Church for allowing us the use of their building. Around 130 people joined us for a friendly meal, and we're very happy to have served the community this way.

Our church plans more events of this kind in the new year, and we hope you'll join us then, too.

Again, many thanks-- and may you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Members of Pioneer Baptist Fellowship
Vernonia

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: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

The Birk Pub & Eatery
Birkenfeld, Or

Sat, 12/17 "Ware-wolves of London" Classic British Rock
Sat, 12/31 New Year's Eve Party \$3/\$5 Cover
"Kenny Lee & the Sundowners" Blues & Southern Rock
Dinner packages available, call to make reservations
Sat, 1/7 "Danny Hays Davis" Rockin' Blues

Mon & Tues 10am-6pm, Cafe Closed • Wed 10am-6pm, Cafe 10am-5pm
Thur-Fri 10am-7pm, Cafe 10am-6pm • Sat 10am-11pm, Cafe 10am-10pm
Sunday 10am-2pm, Cafe 10am-2pm (or call)

11139 Highway 202 (503) 755-2722

All In Pub & Eatery

Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-7
Lady's Night Wed 5-12

"STILL BIKER FRIENDLY"

LIVE MUSIC
Friday, Dec. 16th
Dusty Trails
Saturday, Dec. 31st
New Year's Eve
with Catherine Loyer & Strawberry Roan

Gift certificates available

- Specialty hamburgers
- Draft beer & mixed drinks
- Pool tables & satellite TV
- Special live music events
- Free Wi-fi

Sun - Thurs 11 AM - Midnight • Fri - Sat 11 AM - 2:30 AM
733 Bridge St, Vernonia • 503-429-9999