

Head Start Recruiting Now

Head Start, a federally funded pre-school program, is seeking students for the 2012-2013 school year. Applications are being taken from all three and four year olds in Columbia County. Recruitment for fall enrollment is now in progress and will be completed in August. If parents are interested in enrollment information they are urged to phone immediately.

Perspective students must be three or four years old by September 1, 2012. Children must be from limited income households or have a disability and/or special needs to qualify.

Head Start incorporates a total family program that includes nutrition, education, medical and dental services for the enrolled child and home visitations. USDA approved meals are served. Training on various subjects and on the job training is offered to all enrolled families. Limited transportation may be available.

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Oregon prohibit discrimination in all USDA programs and activities on the basis

of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability.

The Vernonia Center is located in the Blue Heron Hollow Apartment complex. Families who live in the Mist, Birkenfeld and Vernonia areas may phone (503) 429-9243 for more information.

The Clatskanie Center is located behind the high school in Clatskanie. Families in the Clatskanie, Quincy, Westport and Knappa areas may phone (503) 728-2940 for more information.

The Rainier Center is located in the Riverside Church building. Families in the Rainier and Goble area may phone (503) 556-2807 for more information.

Students in the St. Helens area attend class at the center on Columbia Blvd. next to McBride School. Families may contact (503) 397-4114 for more information.

Head Start is an agency of Community Action Team, Inc., serving Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.

Clatsop County Tracking Higher-Than-Normal Respiratory Illness

The Clatsop County Public Health Department is urging the public to observe basic preventative health steps as a result of an increase in reports of upper respiratory tract infections across the county.

Surveillance of local hospital emergency departments and urgent care and walk-in clinics has revealed bronchitis, sinus infections, strep throat and a small number of positive influenza tests. One local school district reported that its absenteeism rate peaked at 19 percent, versus a normal rate of 6 to 8 percent.

Predominant symptoms found in school cases are fever, sore throat, body aches, headaches and nasal and chest congestion.

Neither Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria nor Providence Seaside Hospital in Seaside is reporting any increased hospitalization as a result of these infections. However, people with fever and sore throat should be medically evaluated, as untreated strep throat can lead to complications

including heart and kidney problems.

The Public Health Department reminds citizens to help prevent the spread of respiratory illness by:

- Covering your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throwing the tissue away
- Washing your hands with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Trying to avoid close contact with sick people
- Getting a flu shot (for those age 6 months and older)

Those who do contract a flu-like illness are urged to remain home at least 24 hours after the fever is gone (if no fever-reducing medicine is used), to reduce the risk of spreading the illness at work or school.

For more information, go to the Public Health page on the Clatsop County website, www.co.clatsop.or.us or call (503) 325-8500.

Readers Lend Their Voices... continued from page 4

12) Clatskanie RFPD - Overpriced. I learned first hand they don't stop fires quickly enough to stop totaling a house, only quickly enough to prevent the fire from spreading to the next house. That with many volunteers should enable cutting the full time staff to 2 plus the receptionist and maybe some equipment reductions.

13) Colco Dev. Agency - what is

being developed? I've heard of Colco transportation and would trim their budget but Colco Development? Is that producing or consuming? How can I obtain a development grant?

14) Columbia County - A repeat listing of item 3) sounds like a ripoff.

15) Clatskanie 6J - A repeat of item 2) sounds like a ripoff. Could it be bonds? Should they be either identified

on our tax bills or folded into the school budget and reduced accordingly?

Well there you have some work cut out for you to cut taxes for all Columbia County citizens. Let me know if I can help further.

Kirk Fraser
Clatskanie

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Look for our next issue on April 10th.

Columbia County Receives Funds for Transit Project

The Oregon Transportation Commission has approved a list of non-highway projects for \$23.6 million in funding through the Flexible Funds Program. The projects range from improving bus stops in Salem to restoring the Ochoco Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail in Prineville. Projects were reviewed and recommended after a months-long process by stakeholders representing various modes and geographic regions around the state.

Columbia County received \$1,010,000 million for the St. Helens Public transit facility.

The approved list includes 25 projects and 10 alternatives, all of which must address the needs of bi-

cycle/pedestrian, transit and/or transportation demand (congestion-reducing efforts, such as ride-sharing) projects, programs, plans or services. Funding comes from the Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Program budget and does not affect the current funding levels of other programs that use flexible STP funds. Overall, the program received 105 applications requesting more than \$89 million.

The Oregon Transportation Commission created the new program in 2010 to strategically focus investment in specific non-highway transportation projects. To learn more about the program, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/FlexFunds.shtml>.

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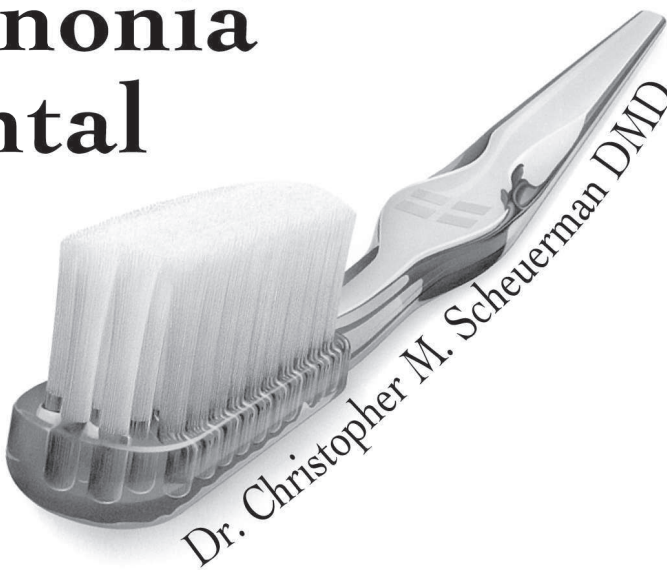
The Vernonia Senior Center would like your donations... BUT they must be left during business hours ONLY

Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Please DO NOT leave items outside

For after hours drop-off please contact Pauline 503-429-5810

Vernonia Dental



Dr. Christopher M. Scheuerman DMD

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