

PTA PRESS EXTRA!! EXTRA!! READ ALL ABOUT IT

By Melissa Zavales

The Vernonia PTA is off to an exciting year. We are ready to host a "fun filled" Fall Carnival that will be sure to bring smiles to the faces of people of all ages. We will have many games, good food, great prizes, and information booths from different organizations within the community. The carnival will be held Saturday October 20, from 5:00-9:00 PM. We hope to see you there! We still need volunteers to help with activities.

Also if you can donate any time to this fundraising cause to purchase playground equipment for the new school, and to purchase furniture for the Middle and High school commons area, please contact Susan Ely at 503-429-5709. Please assist our community in making our schools complete.

We have a new PTA bulletin board right inside the entrance doors to the school. Come check it out. It provides information such as upcoming events, PTA forms, and contact numbers. If you are interested in joining the Vernonia PTA please contact Camrin Erryick at 971-258-9994.

We are a community PTA! That means that we support all schools in our community, not just the grade school. We are looking for new members! There are many opportunities for us to help, encourage, and support our students.....all that is needed is a willingness to give some of your time. So, Grandmas, Grandpas, Aunts, Uncles, Moms, Dads..... anybody who would like to make a difference in our schools- please contact us!

Here is a friendly reminder of items needed for themed baskets that will be auctioned/raffled off at the "Fun Filled Fall" CARNIVAL!!!!

Kindergarten Class = Family night/ Movie, Game and/or Reading theme

Mrs. Murphy Shaw = BBQ/Picnic

Mrs. Hansen = Puzzle theme

Mrs. Louder = Tea party

Mrs. Gingerich = Gardening theme

Mrs. Richmond = Baking theme

Mrs. Hoerauf = Bath/Spa theme

Mrs. Shaw = Pet theme

Mist School = Christmas theme

Middle School = School Spirit theme

High School = 1 U of O themed basket and 1 OSU themed basket

NW Oregon Transit Alliance Receives Public Transportation System Innovation Award

The NW Oregon Transit Alliance a five-agency rural transit partnership in Northwestern Oregon received the Oregon Public Transit Division's System Innovation Award at the Oregon Transit Association Conference held in Seaside Oregon. The Convention attendees included over 250 transportation professionals from all over Oregon. The award honors a public transit project that has demonstrated innovative concepts or effective problem-solving techniques not previously applied in the public transit industry.

The five agencies that make up the NW Oregon Transit Alliance are Columbia County Rider Transportation, Sunset Empire Transportation District, Tillamook Transit District, Lincoln County Transit District and Linn/Benton Rural Transit.

The project is a collaborative effort of the five transit agencies to enhance the livability and economic vitality of the communities they service, while preserving their unique character. This is a landmark project for rural public transportation in Oregon, and a model for other communities and transit providers in the rest of the nation.

Funded through a \$3.5 million US Department of Energy General Innovation Fund grant (through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding), which is aimed at increasing transit use by commuters and visitors in rural northwest Oregon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by making public transit options easy to use and relevant

to visitors and everyday riders.

The goal of the project is to streamline connections between the Oregon Coast and the I-5 corridor; coordinate routes, schedules; and create a fare structure for travel focused on tourism. All of the tasks are crucial aspects of an integrated approach to creating a seamless regional transit system. The goals of this project are to remove transit barriers between counties, brand and market a regionalized system, and implement innovative partnerships with coastal business communities and the travel industry for long-term operational sustainability.

Additional tasks covered by the project are to improve service coordination and provide better information systems for public use. As a part of that task the alliance has, through its Consultant, David Evans & Associates, developed site-specific branding that enhances the visibility of the system while lending itself to local ownership and participation.

The final piece is that of developing strategic partnerships, including the creation of a new non-profit foundation to assist with fundraising and promotion of regional transit programs. As transportation budgets shrink, we expect this model to suit other regions across the country that will need to use their resources in a smarter, greener way.

For further information please contact Janet Wright at 503-366-8504.

ShoeString Players Present St. Helens Haunted Tours

ShoeString Community Players is proud to present its fall production, "St. Helens Haunted Tours". This is ShoeString's first Halloween based tour in conjunction with St. Helens' "Spirit of Halloween Town" down by the river.

The haunted tour utilizes the back drop of St. Helens Olde Towne. With the help of The Klondike, ShoeString Players have been able to bring back characters from the town's past. It is truly a paranormal hot spot.



On this tour come see and learn about the local haunts, and re-live the secret, spooky, and creepy history of St. Helens. This is family friendly, but may be scary for young children, parental discretion advised.

When are the shows? October 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, & 27. "St Helens Haunting Tours" will tour on the hour and half hour from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. There will be six shows a night, please be there thirty minutes early for the show that you would like to attend. This event takes place outdoors, please dress accordingly and warm as Oregon rainy weather is unpredictable in October.

The thirty minute play starts at the Gazebo on the river at Columbia View Park next to the Columbia Courthouse.

The stories are true to recorded history although the enactments depend a bit on the imagination. Tom McKay's tale of St. Helens is embellished more than the others writers, because he was known to tell a good tale and used key phrases to keep the suspense running. All of the characters in the show, except for Molly, lived in Columbia County between approximately 1820 to 1930. In addition to a little Halloween entertainment, the strength and resilience of the pioneers that settled in Columbia County is evident. A special thanks to Debra Brimacombe for writing the script and Keith Marks for adapting the play.

The cast includes: Anthony Harrell, Keith Marks, Jaxon Buschko, Keaton

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