

## Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

The dishes are done, the kitchen cleaned and everyone else is in bed for the night. Sleep does not come so easy for me tonight as my mind is off thinking of the yesteryears. I remember when you never gave up the opportunity to read a story to her. I close my eyes and can picture you both laughing and rolling around on the floor while you try to copy the big bad wolf. How you both would huff and puff and pretend to blow the house down, trying to catch your breath because you were laughing so hard.

Never did I dream that someone else would come along and teach her how to do a different kind of huffing and puffing. Oh yes it would leave her trying to catch her breath but not because of laughing too hard, but because this kind of huffing and puffing has destroyed the nerves in her brain sending the message to her body to breath. They call it Neuropathy, I can't believe it even has a name.

I close my eyes and see her in the hospital... on life support. I can't see her pretty face because of all the tubes. They say they don't know which way this is going to go. They can't offer any hope all they can do is say, "Talk to her, she might be able to hear you". I lean over and touch her face, I tell her it's Nana and that I love her so much. I see a tear roll down the side of her face. I wipe it away wondering, hoping and praying this means she knows it's me who is there.

I think to myself, how could this have happened? Where did things start to go wrong? Who taught her about this kind of huffing and puffing, snorting and injecting? Never believing this kind of

evil would follow her; hound her until she tried it.

The truth is we may never know. The truth is your loved one could be next. When was the last time you talked about drugs with them? When was the last time you showed them pictures of death by drugs. Drugs will never go away only the people who use them will die and go away. Could you possibly save a life by talking to the young man you hired to mow your lawn about drugs? What about the sweet little girl helping you out at the grocery store. Maybe it is the 7 year old who wants your child to come out and play. Who's next? Can you find enough love in your heart to step out of your comfort zone and speak up and maybe save a life? It will only cost you words, kind words loving words. Do you care enough?

From a Nana who now knows a different kind of huffing and puffing.

LeeAnn Russell  
Vernonia

To the Editor,

Well a new year is under way and it is time to start planning for all of our local festivals. Our community has prided itself on our Jamboree, 4th of July celebration, and the Salmon Festival. But as it is with every volunteer group, there is a need for new blood to keep things fresh, so an influx of new blood, energy, and ideas is crucial for continued success.

This past week, the Jamboree committee had its first meeting of the year, and has started putting some initial ideas on the table. Prior to this meeting I discussed with my wife that as new business owners, we have a responsibility to help make these festivals a success, as we financially benefit from them the most.

With this in mind, I attended and am now the new president of the Jamboree committee. I am now going to be asking many people in our community to help us plan and put on the best year of festivals that we ever have. We are looking for people with ideas, and the energy to make ideas a reality. I have talked to several local business owners and they are in agreement that we need to all put an effort into making this year a success.

### CALLING ALL COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS "HONORING OUR HEROES"

SAT, FEBRUARY 23, 2013  
9 AM-5 PM

ST. HELENS OLDE SCHOOL  
251 ST. HELENS ST.  
ST. HELENS, OR

ALL ACTIVE DUTY NATIONAL  
GUARD AND RECENT RETURNEES  
ARE MOST WELCOME!

COME BY FOR: HOT MEAL,  
CLOTHING, PERSONAL  
CARE ITEMS, HEALTH CARE,  
EMPLOYERS, LEGAL AID  
SERVICES, FLU SHOTS, VA  
BENEFITS EXPERTS AND MUCH  
MORE!

FOR MORE INFO ON THIS EVENT  
CONTACT: PAM DANIEL AT  
503-366-6591

The Jamboree committee will be meeting the last Thursday of the month, with the exception of March when we will meet on the last Wednesday. I invite anyone who wants to get involved to attend our next meeting and help us revive Jamboree. I look forward to seeing some new faces, with some new ideas.

Thank You

Ernie Smith  
Vernonia

To the Editor,

About 8 1/2 years ago "The Clever Cricket" first opened in Vernonia, shortly after Thanksgiving in 2004 at our start up location on Bridge Street. It has been my therapy source, my selfish endeavor, my crutch, my happy place. With all of life's ups and downs, we somehow managed to maintain our little shop, just enough to keep our doors open.

However, in life the only certainty is change. After a lot of thought and consideration, it is with mixed emotions that we are announcing we will be closing our store front this year. I realize my children will be leaving the nest sooner, rather than later. Along with the costs of maintaining our little business endeavor, it is time for this chapter of our lives to come to a close.

It will be a gradual process, with our last operating day being Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I will be honoring all in-store credit accounts, coupons, postcards, punch cards, and gift certificates up until the very last day I am open.

I have appreciated having the business and support from all who have come to shop at "The Clever Cricket" over the years. This has been an incredible adventure. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, it has meant more to me than you will ever know. God bless and be with you! Thank you again, I hope to see you soon!

Camrin Eyrrick, Vernonia  
Owner/ Operator "The Clever Cricket"

*continued on page 15*

### Vernonia Transfer Station Announcement

In order for Waste Management to continue providing Transfer Station services to the community of Vernonia, please note the following changes to the site operations:

**EFFECTIVE March 9, 2013**

- 30 yard Drop Box's will be removed and replaced with multiple 6.0 yard containers for household waste.
- Material exceeding 48" in length will no longer be accepted.
- Oversized or bulky waste will no

longer be accepted.  
• The list of prohibited materials by type and quantity are posted at the entrance to the

Transfer Station and remain unchanged.

- Drop Off for recyclable items at no charge and items that require a fee remain unchanged.

Thank you,  
WM of Columbia County

### 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](mailto:scott@vernoniasvoice.com) or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.



- Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels
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Jim Morrison, Jr.  
General Contractor  
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Ph: (503) 429-0154  
[MorrisonRemodeling@hughes.net](mailto:MorrisonRemodeling@hughes.net)  
Vernonia, OR 97064

- Licensed - Bonded - Insured



**NORTHWEST  
TRAIL ALLIANCE**

a chapter of  
**I M B A**  
INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN  
BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

Join us for monthly "1st Saturdays" volunteer trail building events at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park.  
We need your help constructing Cross Country/All-Mountain Bike trails!

March 2nd  
April 6th  
May 4th

★ 2012/2013 Goal: Complete the construction of "Link Pin" switchback connector trail between North/South.

A celebration event for volunteers will be hosted after we dig the final yards of trail to link these areas!

Go to [NW-TRAIL.ORG](http://NW-TRAIL.ORG) for further details and to SIGN UP!

More interested in freeride trails instead? See [westsidetrailfederation.org](http://westsidetrailfederation.org) for events.