

School and Community Help Spackmans

Vernonia School Councilor David Spackman is in need of a liver transplant and will be traveling to Florida sometime in the near future. To help him and his wife Sonia with their living and travel expenses the Vernonia community has stepped up in several different ways. On Monday, March 3, Vernonia school staff and numerous community members showed their love and support by presenting David, Sonia and therapy dog Teddy with several gifts. School

students have been donating coins over the last several weeks; Allison McLeod, Sharon Bernal and Janean Zavales (below) presented the Spackmans with \$1862.96 the kids collected to help the family. School staff held a breakfast and collected an additional \$865 and also presented David and Sonia with a pair of handmade quilts (below right) and Teddy with a new scarf (right). The Vernonia Lions Club also held a Texas Hold 'Em fundraiser and donated \$1238 to the cause.



Free Training to Help Survivors of Violence

The kinds of community-based services SAFE provides are a vital part of public safety response—they help victims and their children find safety and rebuild their lives. However, these services do more than respond to crime—they also help prevent future crime. 70% of individuals who work with an agency like SAFE do not return to abusive relationships. Furthermore, domestic and sexual violence services reduce homelessness, save millions in medical costs (domestic violence alone costs Americans 5.8 billion dollars annually in physical and mental health treatment), increase the effectiveness of substance abuse programs, reduce the need for self-sufficiency payments and child welfare intervention and foster care (in Oregon 1/3 of self-sufficiency requests and 1/3 of founded child welfare cases are caused by Domestic Violence), help child victims succeed in school, and help adult victims stay in jobs.

Given the gravity of the public safety situation in Columbia County, volunteering for SAFE is one way residents



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can empower themselves to lead and support their neighbors. Supporting the work of this agency also has a positive ripple effect throughout the community. Interested persons should register for this upcoming training or one of the future quarterly trainings.

If you or someone you know is seeking services related to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, call SAFE's 24 hour crisis line: 503-397-6161 or (toll free) 1-866-397-6161.

SAFE stands for support, advocacy, freedom and empowerment. Its mission is to empower the community to live safe and healthy lives, free from abuse. For more information about the organization, contact Naaman Cordova-Muenzberg, Executive Director: 503-397-7110.

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