

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

We are pleased to inform you of a Vernonia High School scholarship we have set up called Sisters' Memorial Scholarship. This is in memory of our sisters, Kari Jo Titus (Berick) and Sheri Lynne Wilson (Hiveley).

A few years ago while Jana and I were talking about our families we realized how much we had in common. Our connection was strong and we felt a memorial scholarship would be a great way to give to our youth while honoring our sisters. We came up with the following criteria:

Sisters' Memorial Scholarship was created by two friends who believe good will come to those who treat others with kindness and respect.

Sheri Wilson and Kari Titus died of cancer. They were women of faith who touched lives beyond comprehension. Their sisters, who are current employees of the Vernonia School District, would like to honor them by providing a scholarship for a graduating senior. Student must have a GPA of 2.5, have a strong community connection, a desire to help others, be genuine by nature and honest.

Seniors will be looking at the above information as they go through the local scholarship packet.

Our goal is to offer a \$500 scholarship for a deserving student. All monies will be handled through the school's bookkeeping for tax purposes.

If you feel you are able to help us reach our goal by contributing any amount please do so by mailing it to: Vernonia High School c/o Dana Hyde, 1000 Missouri Ave, Vernonia OR 97064. Please make checks out to: Sisters' Memorial Scholarship. For tax purposes, please use ID#93-6000336.

We are open to suggestions and appreciate your support with this endeavor.

Dana Hyde & Jana Titus
Vernonia, OR

To the Citizens of Vernonia,

It has been my honor to serve the Vernonia community as Mayor for the past four years. I have enjoyed working with many citizens and local groups in our efforts to make Vernonia a better community for us all. In my four years as Mayor, nearly a year and a half was spent volunteering inside City Hall as ProTem City Administrator; during that time I found that I truly enjoy working daily in assistance to my community.

When the position of City Recorder/Assistant to City Administrator was posted I discussed it with my family and decided to apply. After being invited to interview and later being offered the position, I feel a move in this new direction will be beneficial to me as well as my community.

I am confident in my feelings that the current City Council, like me, truly wants what is in the best interest for Vernonia and its citizens. I know now as a staff member I will get to work daily to make the difference I could only govern from my position as Mayor, and I am excited to start this new chapter.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity I have had in this community. I will always be appreciative of the elected officials, staff, business leaders and community members who have been supportive of me in my position. I will truly never forget the sacrifices and support of my entire family throughout this more than meaningful chapter of my life that is coming to a close.

So it is with a twinge of sadness but also much excitement, in which I respectfully announce that I am resigning my position as Mayor of Vernonia effective at the adjournment of the City Council meeting, March 2, 2015.

Sincerely,
Josette M. Mitchell

To the Editor,

It is that time of year again...to start asking for donations for the 2015

Annual Vernonia Fireworks Show!

The Vernonia fireworks show has become a fun tradition in Vernonia, and it will continue to be a fun tradition with the help of all our awesome donors!

Each year the show costs approximately \$5,200 (\$5,000 for the shells, ~\$200 for permits and equipment). My goal for the following years is to grow the number of fireworks shot at the show. This year I will still be displaying a \$5,000 show, but would love to see the amount of donations climb up to \$7,500 - \$10,000 for a larger show in the coming years! In order to do this, I need all the help that I can get from our local businesses and residents. Without all of you and your generous donations, we would not have the show, or the business from the surrounding area's visitors coming to our beautiful small town to see the fireworks! Remember, this is a chance for our town to show off!

I will be putting out Vernonia Fireworks collection jars in several businesses this year to help with donations. These will be out around mid April, and would be removed shortly after July 4th. If you have a business that would like to host a Vernonia Fireworks Donation Collection Jar, please let me know and I will get them to you.

In addition to the collection jars, I rely heavily on direct donations from our town's individuals, businesses, and non-profit groups. I am glad to talk to anybody about this year's show and will make the time to come talk to you or your group about the show if so desired. Contact me if you have a specific time or date that works best for your group(s).

If you would like to donate to the Vernonia Fireworks show directly, donations are accepted at the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Station in person during business hours, or through the mail (Attn: Vernonia Fireworks, 555 E. Bridge St, Vernonia OR 97064).

I would also like to extend an invitation to any individual or group that might have an idea to help bring in more donations. The more ideas, the better! Anything would help!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about this year's show!

Loren Loomis
cell: 503-396-8433
email: loren.loomis@intel.com
snail-mail: 551 North St, Vernonia OR 97064

Upcoming Events

Safe Kids Columbia County Car Seat Clinic - Saturday, March 14, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM at Vernonia Fire Station.

Vernonia Against LNG Meeting - Thursday, March 12, 6:00 PM at the School Commons.

Friends of the Library Book Sale - Friday, March 13, 10-5 PM and Saturday, March 14, 10-4 PM at the Vernonia Library.

Small Woodlands Tree Sale - Saturday, March 14, 8:30 AM-1:30 PM at Pacific Pride in St. Helens. 503-556-8800

Vernonia Health Center Open House, Meet The New Provider - Saturday, March 14, 11 AM-2 PM, 1005 Cougar St.

St. Patrick's Day Parade - Tuesday, March 17, 5:15 PM. Starts at Pat Knight's house, Bridge St, & State Ave. Everyone is welcome.

Community Talent Show - Thursday, March 19, 6:00 PM at the Vernonia School Commons. 503-858-8221

Vernonia Sportsman's Banquet - Saturday, April 18, 6:00 PM at the Vernonia Christian Church, 410 North St. Tickets on sale March 2 at R&S Market.

The Power of Play: Promoting Health and Creativity - Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 PM at the Vernonia Public Library. Join Jonathan Blasher and Tara Doherty for this Conversation Project sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

A Spring Tea, sponsored by Vernonia P.E.O., for ladies of all ages. Sunday, April 26, 2015, 1:00-3:00 PM. Light luncheon, entertainment, photos, etc. Save the date now, watch for more information.

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.

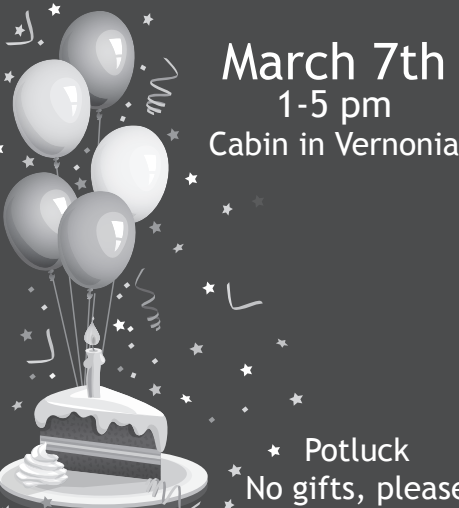
Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Meet Hutch. This gentle, loving 8 year old Jack Russell terrier mix is looking for a loving home to call his own. He came to us from California and in general is just an absolute gentleman. He gets along well with other dogs and with cats. He has never met a person that he doesn't like. This loveable guy is looking for someone that will take him for walks and give him a nice place to curl up and enjoy his golden years. Due to his age his adoption fee has been reduced to \$50.00. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email.

2084 Oregon Street
St. Helens, OR 97051
Web: www.columbiahumane.org
Phone: 503-397-4353
Email: animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org

It's Lulu Lamping's 80th Birthday!



Need Help?

Call for meeting times
and locations

Columbia Community
Mental Health
Call 503-397-5211 -or-
1-800-294-5211
For after hours Crisis call:
1-866-866-1426
<http://www.ccmh1.com/crisis.html>

Narcotics Anonymous
NW Region
503-345-9839
<http://portlandna.com/>

Alcohol Anonymous
NW Region
503-366-0667
<http://www.pdxaa.com/>