

Congratulations...

Janae Easlon of Vernonia, Oregon will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism at Western Washington University's commencement ceremony, to be held on Saturday, June 10.



While at WWU, Janae's activities included working as an intern and being published in Bellingham Business Journal. She also edited for the news and features desk at The Western Front, a campus newspaper, and

later went on to serve as editor-in-chief. In addition, she studied abroad at Vesalius College, in Brussels, Belgium. Most recently, she reported and copyedited for Klipsun Magazine, a feature magazine. Janae plans to be a story teller after graduation.

A 2013 graduate of Vernonia High School, Janae is the daughter of proud parents Mike and Tracy Easlon of Vernonia.

HELP WANTED

The City of Vernonia is accepting applications for a part-time Library Aide to prepare and conduct library programming for children, perform clerical duties specific to library operations, and provide customer service.

Position is up to 4 hours per week plus varied on-call shifts as needed. Salary \$11 per hour. Requires a high school diploma. Experience in a library, educational support setting, or equivalent in customer service preferred. All applications must be received by email or at City Hall 1001 Bridge St. Vernonia, OR 97064 by midnight on Friday, June 2, 2017. For application and full job description visit www.vernonia-or.gov or contact Angie Handegard at financial@vernonia-or.gov.

VENDORS NEEDED for the Great American Bash to be held at Spencer Park on July 4, 2017. The Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the family-oriented event. Three live bands will be performing before the 4th of July fireworks. So far, the class of 2018 senior trip students have agreed to have a booth selling root beer floats and orangeades. Other food vendors needed! Interested vendors please contact Betsy Miller at (503) 324-0606 x221.

9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District (C911CD) is conducting a hiring process for full-time Communications Specialists (9-1-1 Dispatcher-Call taker) to join our training program as limited training slots become available. Log on to www.columbia911.com and click on 'Careers.' For any questions call (503) 366-6976.

Columbia County Budget Committee Submits FY2017-18 Budget to County Commission

County to host hearings on proposed budget in Clatskanie June 6; St. Helens June 7

The FY2017-2018 Columbia County budget was unanimously approved by the six-member budget committee.

The total approved budget is \$58,605,449, an increase of \$52,990 over the proposed budget presented on April 25. Changes were a result of new information received on grants and health insurance rates, plus a handful of other small adjustments.

The approved budget includes the county property tax permanent rate of \$1.3956 per \$1000, the final year for the justice facility debt service bond tax levy and the renewal of the Jail Operations levy approved by voters last November at the same level of the previous local option levy at 0.5797 per \$1000.

The commission has scheduled two public hearings on the bud-

get. The first will take place in Clatskanie on Tuesday, June 6. This hearing will be followed by a meet-and-greet with county commissioners. The hearing begins at 5:30 pm at Humps Restaurant, 50 W. Columbia River Hwy.

The second public hearing will take place the following day, June 7, beginning at 5:30 pm in the county courthouse at 230 Strand St. in St. Helens. Budgets for the County Extension Service/4-H, the Meadowview Lighting District and the Columbia County Development Agency will also be heard.

"We encourage county residents to learn about this year's budget and to give us input," said County Commissioner Alex Tardif. "While we focused much needed resources for roads, public safety and technology advancements, we want to hear directly from our citizens about what they feel is most important."

Tardif is the county's budget officer. He and Commissioners Henry Heimuller and Margaret

Magruder serve on the county's Budget Committee along with Paul Langer, Rory Hammond and Dan Garrison.

Highlights of FY18 general fund expenditures include the Sheriff's new Clatskanie policing program, continuation of support to the Jail Operations fund of \$1 million, and support of the important work being carried out by the Roads Department, Columbia County Rider and the Columbia County Fair, which for the first time in many years, was assigned \$50,000 to be used for capital improvements.

The overall budget also continues to build upon last year's by adding 12 staff positions (nine across several public safety departments and three in general government services) for a total of 186 full time positions.

The proposed budget in detail is available on the county's website at www.co.columbia.or.us/departments/finance.

PCC Columbia County Update *continued from page 11*

PCC will bring its ODE-funded iDesign summer youth camp to Scappoose August 7-11. Participants (grades 7-9 only) will learn how to use electronic vinyl

cutters to produce marketable custom decals, pop-up cards and etched glassware. The camp is free and lunch is included. Campers also get to keep their vinyl cutters (\$200 value). For details and registration, go to pcc.edu/digitalsummer and navigate to the iDesign section.

Oregon Promise, the state educational grant program that provides funds for eligible students who wish to attend community college, has solid representation in Columbia County. Currently 38 students, representing Clatskanie, St. Helens and Vernonia High Schools, are receiving Oregon Promise funds that, for this group, total \$74,800. PCC should know by July if the program will be funded in 2017-18 by the state legislature.

The Columbia County Future Connect Coalition continues to meet monthly at the Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District, the second Tuesday of each month. Last fall ten Columbia County students

enrolled in Future Connect through a state grant and all students continue to do well in college. They have not yet developed resources to fund a cohort of Columbia County high school grads for the fall of 2018, but we continue to meet and try to find options. Please contact Pam Blumenthal with any questions or ideas at: pamela.blumenthal15@pcc.edu.

PCC continues to offer a variety of credit and non-credit classes in the County. For general information about our efforts in Columbia County, please visit pcc.edu/about/locations/columbia-county.

PCC Rock Creek's annual Diesel Day was May 5. This event always draws a large group of students from Columbia County. The day's agenda means opportunities for hands-on training and time to meet with representatives from the diesel services industry, as well as heavy equipment company representatives who are looking for employees.

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