

20th Annual Memorial Day Service



Memorial Day was observed on May 29 at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery. The grounds were prepared by Scout Troop 860, the Vernonia Cemetery Committee, and other volunteers.

SAFE of Columbia County Welcomes New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of SAFE of Columbia County has announced that Ellyn Bell has been named the new Executive Director.

Bell has worked as an organizational leader with at-risk and marginalized youth in the juvenile justice system, foster care, and in family services. She has also been a strong and active leader in the movement to address sexual and domestic violence for over 20 years, and worked extensively with human trafficking in San Francisco.

Her personal experiences and challenges as a youth informed her career choice. She holds a Master's Degree in Religion, with an emphasis in Theology. Her undergraduate degree is in Sociology and Anthropology. She also received her social work license in the State of Iowa.

Bell is a yoga teacher, a dancer, and a published author. She is mother to two wonderful people who are now extraordinary young adults.

Where do you read the Voice?

Show us where you have traveled. Submit your photo and brief description to: scott@vernoniasvoice.com

Salem Report *continued from page 5*

Johnson voting no, and it is now in the House Rules Committee.

A big part of the Legislature's job is to try and anticipate future needs. It's a challenge because we have to consider a wide range of factors, including the impact of federal policies on our economy, but we have experienced and reliable staff to help us parse the numbers. Recently the Office of Economic Analysis presented the latest Revenue Forecast to the Legislature, and it's this information that will provide the basis for the 2017-19 budget. The news is mixed: Our economy continues to do better than the national average, although there are signs that the growth is beginning to slow down as we reach full employment. Oregon's

jobless rate is 3.7%, while the national rate is 4.6%.

In spite of these good numbers, we are still facing a \$1.4 billion shortfall in order to fund our schools, health care, human services and public safety at just the current levels. The reasons for this are multi-faceted, but the main reason is a wildly fluctuating income stream that promotes a feast-or-famine economic climate. As described in my previous columns, overdependence on personal income taxes and the lowest corporate taxes in the nation have paired up to make long-term stability nearly impossible to achieve.

The Joint Committee on Tax Reform is working hard to come up with revenue enhancement that will be both fair and adequate, and pass muster with the voters. Ways and Means has prepared budgets that slash

over \$600 million from current expenditures in order to balance the budget. But even if all of this comes together, there is yet another concern to contend with and that is the Kicker, the arcane law passed in 1979, that will require about \$400 million in personal income taxes be returned to individual taxpayers in 2018.

This law requires state economists to estimate what we can expect income tax revenue to be over the next two-year budget period, within 2%. This is a thoroughly unrealistic expectation that has rarely been met. If the actual revenue received exceeds the 2% estimate, then the entire excess must be returned to the individual taxpayer. To compound matters, the kicker is often triggered following a recession, just when the state can least afford it. It is also interesting to note that the estimated refund for the lowest 60% of taxpayers ranges between \$5 and \$191. The top 1% will get back about \$4,500. This policy is in the constitution so any changes must be approved by the voters.

It's that time of the year when construction projects start popping up in our district. As a heads-up for drivers, be aware that speed limits will be strictly enforced in work zone areas. Also, I intend to pass along closures/restrictions as my office is notified.

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue out June 15.

Creatures LLC
Pets, Feeds, Supplies, Tack, U-Wash Facility, Childrens Toys, Gifts, Novelies & More...
503-429-PETS (7387)
998 Bridge Street
Vernonia, OR 97064
Mon-Fri 10:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-5:00pm
Sun 12:00pm-4:00pm
Creatures@frontier.com
Facebook: Creatures-pet-shop

reach thousands of potential customers
advertise here!
email us: ads@vernoniasvoice.com
call us: 503.367.0098

We saddle shoe. Do you?
Muffy's
950 Bridge Street
Vernonia, OR 97064
503.429.5050 or 866.524.5050
www.muffys.com
World Headquarters Vernonia, Oregon

Visit US today for all your financial needs!
Josh, Teresa, Joy, and Lisa
905 Bridge Street
(503) 429-6271
All of us serving you®
usbank
Member FDIC

Grey Dawn Gallery
879 Bridge St. (503) 429-2787
Photography - Bronze
Jewelry - Glasswork
Pottery - Custom Framing
www.greydawngallery.com
Featuring the finest in northwest art

Natural Path Health Services

DR. CAROL MCINTYRE, ND, LAC
NATUROPATHIC & CHINESE MEDICINE
clinic 503-429-3928
fax 888-977-1763
cccmd@yahoo.com
naturalpathhealthservices.com
758 WEED AVENUE
VERNONIA, OR, 97064

BLACK BEAR COFFEE COMPANY & ROASTERY
FRESH ROASTED COFFE, ESPRESSO, BAKED GOODS
NEW LOCATION 825 BRIDGE STREET • 503-429-0214
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
FULL MENU
OPEN EVERY DAY AT 6:00 AM
The BLACK IRON GRILL
BEAR CREEK PUB & SPORTS LOUNGE
BURGERS & FRIES
9 BEERS ON TAP
GROWLERS TO GO
831 BRIDGE STREET • 503-429-0214

New Day Massage and Bodyworks
Therapeutic Massage Specializing in
• Auto/Work Injury Rehabilitation
• Medical Massage Cupping
• Manual Lymph Drainage
• Nutritional Counseling
• Post Mastectomy Care
• Oncology Support
• Sauna on-site

Heather Lewis, LMT, LMP, CLT, NT
847 Madison Avenue, Vernonia
For appointments call: 503-429-4677
Insurance accepted #10732