

Columbia County Awarded \$1.2 Million Grant for Justice System Innovations

On December 6, 2017 District Attorney Jeff Auxier, Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson, and Department of Community Justice Director Janet Evans were officially awarded a \$1,239,999 grant from the State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. The money will allow the County to employ a Deputy District Attorney, Sheriff's Deputy, and Probation Officer (PO) paid for by the State of Oregon. The award will also pay for a patrol car for the Sheriff's Deputy.

The Criminal Justice Commission awarded the grant to Columbia County based on a proposal from Auxier, Dickerson, and Evans to create a new unified team consisting of a prosecutor, a police officer, and a PO. The team will be charged with identifying the best candidates for probation sentences while simultaneously stepping-up enforcement of probation violators.

"This new program will help make sure that we give probation to defendants who actually deserve

it, and that probation violators will face swift sanctions," Auxier said.

Echoing this sentiment, Sheriff Dickerson added, "This program will enhance our enforcement efforts to conserve the peace in our County and expand the jail's potential for holding violators of that peace accountable."

While the program is still in development, *continued on page 7*

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

Staff at the Vernonia Public Library wish everyone a Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday season. The Library will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, and Monday, January 1, to give staff time to celebrate with family.

The Library has been filled with more holiday cheer than ever this year, due to the support and participation of many volunteers. It's hard to spend enough time thanking individuals and groups for everything you do for the library. To name a few, thank you to students at the Vernonia Academy for decorating the Library for Christmas. Thank you to Lorna Poetter and friends for pruning, raking, and preparing the Library grounds for the winter. Thank you to Susan Schmidlin, Caitlin Hunter, and Amy Ragan for volunteering to host (in order of volunteer), a Writer's Group, Knitting Group, and an upcoming Puppetry workshop for children. Thank you to all Library staff family members for putting your time in at the Library. Thank you Library Board members for volunteering to improve the Library and services. Thank you to Cici Bell for wearing many hats for the Library and helping wherever needed, and Donna Webb for hours devoted to our ongoing newspaper project. And to the Friends of the Library and Vernonia Hands on Art for hosting programs and purchasing membership passes to share with the community.

Thank you to City staff and

in particular, the wonderful Library support staff Nancy, Brandi, and Jamie, for all you do for the Library.

On Saturday, December 9 the Library hosted a Story & Craft as part of the Spirit of Christmas line-up. Library staff, Jamie Adams, read "Mooseltoe" by Margie Palatini with the help of her husband, Jess Adams, and audience members. Over 45 kids came to the Library to enjoy the story and create Christmas moose, mustache trees, and scratch art ornaments. What an amazing line-up of events for Spirit of Christmas this year. Appreciation goes out to the committee in charge. Well done!

Upcoming Events

Family Movie Matinee

Thursday, December 28, 2-3:30 pm
Featuring: *Rise of the Guardians*
Free movie and popcorn

Author Night: Brian K. Friesen

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 pm
Portland author of *At the Waterline: Stories from the Columbia River* will be coming to the Vernonia Library for a reading, Q & A about his book, and book signing. Sponsored by the Friends of the Vernonia Library. Light refreshments served.

Puppetry Workshop

Tuesdays, 4-5 pm
January 16 - February 27
Registration required. Limited to 10 participants, open to 3rd - 5th grade. \$10.00 material cost per student. Students will make their own puppets, learn puppetry skills, and work towards a performance of

Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses. Puppet show is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 pm. For a successful performance students must plan on attending as many Tuesday classes as possible. Register at the Library (503) 429-1818 or email shannonr@vernonia-or.gov

Ongoing Programs

Kids Book Group

Friday, January 12, 4:30-5:30 pm
January Selection: *Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye* by Geronimo Stilton. Meetings once a month, 2nd Friday at 4:30 pm. For kids and families with children grades 3-5, or thereabouts. Copies of books will be available following the meeting. If interested in the book group and want to be on a contact list, email shannonr@vernonia-or.gov or contact the library (503) 429-1818.

Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. No Meeting in December. Discussion for January 29: *Astoria* by Peter Stark.

Knitting Group

Saturday, January 20, 10 am-Noon
For knitters with all levels of experience. Contact Caitlin at boylandknitworks@gmail.com if you are new to knitting and need materials or more information.

Writer's Group

Thursday, December 21, 6-7:30 pm
Third Thursday of the month. For all levels of writing experience. New members always welcome.

Storytimes

Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 10:30-11:15 am
Songs, short stories, toys, and bubbles for 0-3.

Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30-11:15 am
Stories and a craft/activity for up to age 5. Older siblings welcome!
No Storytime on Friday, December 22

Did You Know?

Book and DVD Donations

The Friends of the Library takes donations of books, DVDs, and audiobooks. The Friends are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and donations are tax deductible. Bring donations to the Library during open hours. Some items are added to the collection and the rest are saved for the annual Jamboree booksale. Items should be clean and gently used. Please no textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias, Readers Digest Condensed books, or very outdated non-fiction information. For large donations, please call ahead at the Library (503) 429-1818. Thank you!

Library Closures

Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26 for the Christmas Holiday
Monday, January 1 for New Years

Hours & Contact Info

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 5 pm
Tues & Thurs 1 pm - 7pm
Sat 10 am - 4 pm
Closed Sundays

Phone: (503) 429-1818

E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov



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Friends of the Vernonia Public Library

Membership Dues:

Family: \$10.00 Individual: \$5.00
Minimum: \$1.00 plus 2 hours minimum of work in the library

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Mailing Address: 701 Weed Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064

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