

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

Over 200 years ago patriots fought for our freedoms where some of your and my family's forbears were intimately involved in that struggle. Now Russia, our mortal enemy, interfered with the 2016 election. THAT IS A FACT. How and why this happened has to be determined so it will not affect the upcoming election in nine months. All Americans can agree on that. Every dedicated patriot should also be shoulder-to-shoulder to prevent a repeat and focus on sustainable remedies.

FIX THE PROBLEM! That is upholding our flag of freedom and actually meaning the words of our national anthem we recently talked about. Wake up America—we have been warned. It happened once; if it happens again it is stupidity, and we, the people, are not stupid and call for action.

Since experiencing President Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats" I can remember no presidential election in which the word "collusion" appeared. Collusion. No collusion. One can hardly listen to news today without that word bandied about in the broadcast referring to the 2016 election and directly related to the current Washington administration and Republican led majority legislature.

The Latin-derived verb "collude", is listed in Merriam-Webster as "to scheme," among other nefarious syn-

onyms. Collusion as a noun, means "an act of secret collaboration for an illegal purpose." Collusion is also a legal term, so it has substance and consequences in terms of administering justice. It is a very serious matter that can be litigated and people charged with crimes.

There is an urgent need to get to the truth of how Russia was able to tamper with our election simply because another crucial election rapidly approaches. But our elected government officials of this proven faulty election seem to not want to dig out the truth of what transpired. From the President, Republican Senate, and House majority leadership, a concerted effort to stop getting to the bottom of the problem and seeking the truth is shockingly evident. Why? What can we fear from the truth that will stop encroachment of our fundamental right of non-interference by our avowed enemy into the electoral process? If there was no collusion, what is the big problem?

Here is where the word "collusion" starts to take shape. How and why did this happen? Is there a Benedict Arnold among us? We need answers to what happened. We want the truth so we can prevent recurrence. The concept of placing blame should be secondary as to who was involved in this act of secret collaboration for an illegal purpose, which election interference surely

represents. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help us God. This is mandatory from the President, our Legislature, the Justice Department including Law Enforcement, the Intelligence community, all State and Municipality Governments, and every American Patriot.

We have a God-given duty to see that our elected officials protect our ballot, our voice from our arch enemy. Truth is key and messing with Uncle Sam cannot be tolerated. Collusion or no collusion is not the urgent time-is-a-wasting issue. Russia's meddling is fact and must be prevented. The urgent question is what steps are our government currently taking to prevent another election fiasco barreling down on our country?

RUSSIA MUST NOT INTERFERE IN OUR ELECTIONS. Truth will prevail and freedom will ring from the rooftops across our nation.

Hal Ritz
Scappoose, OR

Upcoming Events

Jamboree Crab Feed Fundraiser - Saturday, February 17, 5:00 pm at Cedar Ridge Retreat and Conference Center

4th Annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration - Thursday, March 1, 6:30 pm at the Vernonia Library

Father & Daughter Country Ball - Saturday, March 10, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Grace Family Fellowship, 957 State Avenue. \$5 per couple.

Seed 2 Supper Free Gardening Class Series - Thursdays, 4/5 - 5/10, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Vernonia Christian Church. Must pre-register at S2Scolumbia@gmail.com or call Debi at (503) 543-3294.

TOPS Group (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meet Fridays at the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Dept. 8:30 am weigh in, 9:00 am meeting. Men and women invited to join. (503) 429-7505

Barbee Family Benefit and Fundraiser

Matthew Barbee, an 11-year veteran with the Tigard Police Department, was critically injured mid-December in a motor vehicle accident. Matt, his wife Sherrie, and their three school age children are members of the Mist/Vernonia community.

Saturday, March 3 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Vernonia Schools there will be a benefit for the Barbee Family including a Silent Auction; Spaghetti Dinner - (including gluten free and vegetarian options, salad, bread and drink); Live Music; Bingo and a Dessert Shop.

Donations are coming in and there will be prizes/auction items for all ages.

If you are interested in helping with the Spaghetti Fundraiser in any capacity, please contact Barb Carr at bcarr@vernonia.k12.or.us.

Also, look for Chop Chop Chicken Sundaes in the parking lot of Napa Auto Parts on Saturday, February 17 from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm. The owners of Chop Chop Chicken Sundaes will be donating 20% of all sales that day to the Barbee family.

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.

Vernonia Weather January 2018

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	36	30	.03
2	32	18	T
3	33	16	0
4	34	7	0
5	36	7	0
6	35	22	0
7	31	30	.15
8	35	30	.55
9	35	32	.45
10	38	27	.32
11	31	19	.03
12	34	11	0
13	32	11	0
14	36	13	0
15	37	25	0
16	37	31	0
17	47	36	1.52
18	51	39	.75
19	48	33	.11
20	42	33	.09
21	44	34	.19
22	47	27	T
23	48	25	0
24	45	31	0
25	46	32	.06
26	47	30	T
27	51	31	0
28	48	29	0
29	43	29	0
30	45	36	0
31	47	24	0
Ave/Tot	40.4	25.7	4.25

Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant

Online Licensing Available for Dog Owners in Columbia County

For the convenience of county dog owners, you may now license your dog(s) online. The Sheriff's Office web page for dog licensing is located at www.co.columbia.or.us/sheriff. The link to the Dog Licensing page is in large font among the links under the Sheriff's Greetings on the home page.

The online dog licensing form automatically calculates licensing fees. You will need your rabies information to be submitted along with the online form, and licensing is dependent on our ability to confirm that each dog to be licensed has been inoculated against rabies. There is a small fee charged by the card processor that is added to the total cost.



Lawyer in the Library: Divorce Workshop

A workshop on DIVORCE is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 from 6-8 pm in the Columbia County Law Library, which is located at 270 S. First St. in St. Helens. The workshop marks the 15th in the Lawyer in the Law Library series being hosted by the law library.

Local attorneys Aaron Martin

and Teri Powers will be the guest speakers. The workshop is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. No registration is required. Your attendance and questions will be welcome.

For more information, please contact Columbia County Law Librarian Pam Davis at (503) 396-5344 or davis12000@aol.com.

AA Meetings

Open Meetings
Mondays & Thursdays
6:30-7:30 pm
Vernonia Christian Church
410 North Street

Women's Meeting
Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 pm
Vernonia Christian Church
410 North Street

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Meeting

6:30 pm on Thursday
February 22, 2018

at the UNWC office 1201 Texas Ave. Suite A. Entrance is around the back of the building

For more info call
(503) 429-0869
or email
maggie@nehalem.org



The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Main Station, 12525 HWY 202, Mist, OR. Agenda items include, but are not limited to, usual order of business, citizen input, Fire Chief's report, financial reports, and any other business needing to be discussed.