

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

We recently moved from the Portland area into the Nehalem Valley out of our desire to live with less crowding, less noise, less light, and less conflict. We were heartened by your letter in the September 16 edition of your paper by your invitation to our community to “do a little better.” Your letter to your readers observed that, even in a small and rural community, there is a diversity of opinion – as well there should be. We subscribe to the idea that reasonable people disagree about important things. You noted the complexity of “small town issues” and the potential for people to “become preoccupied with our differences.” We very much appreciated your calling out that risk and urging people to move past the inevitable and important differences in our perspectives, and to focus on where we agree.

We also appreciate your combining of local news and events with stories that have a broader scope. We have especially enjoyed pieces on the water issues that impact us all, and the careful and detailed writing on the Indigenous people of this land. Even in our rural communities we are subject to larger forces and should use our history to inform our choices for the future.

Thank you for your work and

the immense effort we know is involved in informing our community.

Rebecca Provorse and Gary Granger Birkenfeld

Dear Vernonia School District Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to another year at Vernonia Schools. I would like to take a minute of your time and let you know about the fundraisers we will be doing this school year. Your help and support for our school is greatly appreciated! There are no collection bins. Ways to drop off: at the main office, have your student bring it in and give the item(s) to me, personally, turn the materials in to me, or if you can’t make it in, please mail the donations to the school.

We are collecting the following for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Box Tops Labels (*please get the Box Top App on your cell phone*). Set it to donate to/for Vernonia Elem. School
2. Old cell phones and ink cartridges
3. Colgate or any brand of oral care waste (toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, packaging)

Side Note on Box Tops: Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production. The Box Tops program has become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Top clip to the new Box Tops label. *If you use the new Box Tops app on your phone, scan your grocery receipt.* Box Tops are still

worth 10 cents or sometimes even more for our school. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to our school’s earnings online.

All the money collected from fundraising/recycling this specific school year will be going towards elementary physical education equipment. The equipment will be used during PE classes and outside during recess activities.

If you have any questions or are not quite sure about what is the correct product, please don’t hesitate to call Vernonia Schools, email, or stop by and talk to me in person.

I will send out periodic parent/guardian announcements on the school Facebook page, on Class Dojo, or articles to *Vernonia’s Voice* throughout the year about fundraising efforts. Thanks to those who have helped in the past and a “thank you” to those who will help this school year. Take care, be safe, and thank you for your continued support.

Mr. George Spaulding
Vernonia Elementary School
K-5 P.E. Teacher
High School Basketball & Track Assistant Coach (503) 429-1333 Ex:1358

Dear Governor Brown,

I am writing you today because I was dismayed by the letter sent to you by Sheriff Brian Pixley on August 19. Please know that, despite the claims in the letter, it does not represent the views of the residents of Columbia County as a whole. Many of us – and certainly I, personally – are grateful for your efforts to protect our community. We recognize the incredibly difficult job you’ve been given, and while nobody is happy about the need for ongoing restrictions, we thank you for acting with integrity in making the difficult choices.

Together, our public health professionals, researchers, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals have given us the tools we need to beat this

pandemic. We have vaccines which are highly effective, including against the Delta variant, and remarkably safe. We know that, unfortunately, the vaccines alone are not enough against this more contagious variant, but that combined with wearing a mask and simple limits on gatherings, we can end this threat. But doing so relies on everyone doing their part. That includes all of us, individually, doing what we can; it also includes our elected officials and public servants helping to protect us, especially those in our community who are unable to protect themselves.

While we agree the Sheriff is responsible for protecting our community in various ways, his letter felt like an abdication of that responsibility. Protecting our community must include helping to protect us from a pandemic which has taken the lives of 673,637 Americans, 3,569 Oregonians, and 37 residents of our county – a number which includes a member of my family – and subjected many more to grave, often ongoing, illness.

Since the Sheriff’s letter, we all hoped he’d reconsider his professional and moral obligations, as well as the needs of our county. While I believe he owes our community an explanation, it is encouraging to see that he has, at least, softened his position and he and his staff have been helping to enforce the mask mandate, at least in limited cases. We encourage Sheriff Pixley to talk with our excellent County Public Health Department or the many dedicated physicians who work here to better understand the risks we face and how best to manage them.

We’re grateful that we have competent and thoughtful leadership at the state level, working to protect us all; we know that not every state has that advantage, and results speak for themselves. But we know that we’re by no means out of the woods. Beating this pandemic, and the Delta variant in particular, depends on everyone doing their civic duty to help protect their family, their neighbors, and their community by getting vaccinated if they’re able and wearing masks when appropriate.

Governor, our thanks go out to you, the folks at Oregon Health Authority, and the many others who continue to work so hard to get us through this as quickly as possible.

Anthony Sorace
Chair, Columbia County
Democrats Central Committee

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Nursery Fall Native Plant Sale – Saturday, October 9, 9 am - 2 pm behind the Scappoose High School. For more info: <https://www.scappoosebay-wc.org/native-plant-nursery/>

The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD
Board of Directors
will meet by teleconference
for their regular board meeting
**Tuesday, October 19, 2021
at 7:00 pm.**
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82476020150?pwd=SFMrb2hEVjRzUTFzazhGVGxtZSt1QT09>
Access Info:
Conference call-in #:
1-971-247-1195
Meeting ID: 824 7602 0150
Passcode: 033238
<http://www.mistbirkenfeld-rfpd.org>

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Saturday, October 23, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, at the Columbia County Transfer Station, 1601 Railroad Ave., St. Helens. Call Kathy at (503) 397-7259 for information.

The Vernonia Transfer Station
is scheduled to be open on
the 2nd and 4th Saturday
January - October
October 9 & 23
The Transfer Station is
scheduled to be open on
the 1st and 3rd Saturday in
November & December
**November 6 & 20
December 4 & 18**
Dates are subject to change

**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

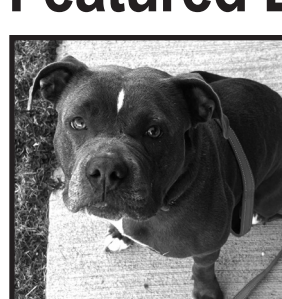


Purr-fect Pals



Lyla is a sweet, social little girl. She just loves being with people and comes running whenever there is a human around. She’ll jump up, give you head butts, and also climb up onto your shoulders. She doesn’t necessarily want to sleep on your lap but loves to take a nap next to you. She enjoys playing with the laser and loves her scratching posts. Lyla does a great job with her litter box and is used to being around cat friendly dogs. There are two cats in her foster home and she has met them but is still unsure about them. Lyla is happiest when she is with her people. She would love to live with someone who either works from home, is retired, or works part-time. Lyla is about a year old and weighs around 5 pounds. If you are interested in making her part of your family we ask that you please email dcpadams@comcast.net in order to obtain an application. This kitty is currently not being showcased at the shelter. Her adoption fee is \$125.

Featured Dog



Taco is a very sweet and very loving girl and will make a great addition to any family. She is currently living in a foster home as she has found shelter life to be too stressful. She is probably 2-3 years old and weighs about 60 lbs. She really loves to be with her people so having people who work from home, or who won’t leave her for long periods of time will be best. In a low key home she is very low key, loves to just hang out and sleep or watch life pass her by on the deck. The occasional walk is ok but not always mandatory for her either. She is working on being potty trained, and will indicate to you she needs to go by getting really excited. She isn’t a huge fan of the rain either. She loves to chew on her bones and loves to play with her toys. She would like a dog friend that likes to play. She has a tendency to get overly excited and doesn’t know her size so a home with kids over 12 and no kitties would probably be best. She does find food on the counter to be pretty interesting and can’t resist the urge to try to get it. If you are interested in meeting Taco please send an email to adoption@columbiahumane.org in order to obtain an application. Once we have an approved application on file we will then schedule a time for you to come and meet her. Please note that we prefer all communications concerning adoptions to be made via email, as we spend the majority of our days with the dogs and cats that are in our care. This allows us to be able to answer emails in the evenings.

2084 Oregon Street, St. Helens, OR 97051

E-mail: info@columbiahumane.org

Web: www.columbiahumane.org