

Better communication may help solve drug problem

To the Editor:

In reference to the April 2 article concerning drug abuse in Vernonia, a good point was made about communication. Lack of communication is usually at the bottom of any problem that exists and it is definitely the case with drug abuse.

The citizens of Vernonia have shown a great deal of concern and seem to have a lot of energy that they are willing to put into correcting the drug abuse problems that are apparent in the young people in town. Opening the lines of communication between adults and young people seems to me to be the first step. It would be more productive for everyone concerned to talk about this problem in an atmosphere that is non-threatening, especially for the young people, instead of channelling all the

energy into law enforcement where when the young person is found to have a problem with drugs he is confronted with punishment, not with someone who has the time to get to the basis of the problem. In drug

abuse, the real problem isn't just using drugs it is what is going on in that person's life that leads him to believe that using drugs holds something worthwhile for him.

I would like to see a program set up

in Vernonia to help parents, educators, the police and young people to communicate more freely, to educate the community about drugs and to give them a deeper understanding of what it means to have a drug abuse problem

It is good to see so many people wanting to get involved to solve this problem. I hope that the young people will also openly voice their opinions on how they see the use of drugs in Vernonia.

Casey Levi

PUBLIC FORUM

Study Club elects '81-'82 officers

Election of officers for 1981-82 was held when the Vernonia Study Club met April 2 at the home of Mrs. John Lentz.

Mildred Tupper is the new president; Arlene Vinyard, vice-president and Irene Meyer is secretary-treasurer.

The group voiced pleasure that its table at the recent Snoopy Sales was quite successful with the intent to "refill" the Emergency Relief Fund. Thanks are due the supporters who made purchases and/or donations to the cause.

At the next meeting, May 7, Shirley Wilkerson will be hostess. To further increase our goal, there will be a silent auction for the Emergency Relief Fund.

For the program, Mildred Tupper reported on the Nunan House in Jacksonville, Oregon. The mansion was erected in 1892. The owners, Jeremiah and Delia Nunan, were Irish immigrants who came to the valley in 1840. After gold was discovered in 1851 Delia used her earnings from sewing (Jeremiah was a saddle and tack maker) to open a mercantile store. By 1890 the Nunans were regarded as the wealthiest family in town.

The house design shown in a catalog of plans "The Cottage Souvenir" published in Knoxville,

Tennessee, arrived in a kit for him in 1840. The pre-fab building was a three story, 22 room, 2400 square foot ballroom on the third floor, 11,000 square foot total; built at a cost of \$7792. The grounds included a carriage house, stables, barn and well house. In 1977 the Nunan house was sold for \$185,000.

Kindergarten registration set April 23

Thursday, April 23 is kindergarten registration for the school year 1981-82.

There will be no regular kindergarten classes that day.

It is important that we know the number of kindergarten children that will attend school at Vernonia Elementary School next year. A child must be five (5) years of age on or before November 15 of that year to enter kindergarten for the first time. A birth certificate is necessary. If you have a child or know of a child that will be in kindergarten next year, please inform them of this registration.

If you do not have a birth certificate please send for it now to have it for registration day. Forms are available at Washington Grade School office to send for a birth certificate.

There will be an immunization clinic at Washington Grade School on Thursday, April 23. If your child needs any shots they may get them that day.

On April 23, parents will be able to pick up the enrollment forms, immunization cards, and a simple developmental screening of your child will be done by the teacher. Please bring the child's birth certificate and shot record with you. Medical examinations are required for all students entering school for the first time, and parents will need to arrange for these with their private physicians. We are asking that parents with last names beginning with the letters A-F come between 8:30-10, G-L between 10-12, M-S between 1-2 and T-Z between 2:30-3:30. If these times are not convenient for some parents, please come when it is convenient.

THANKS

Bill and Lottie Titus would like to thank everyone who helped after their home burnt. "We don't know how to repay everyone," Bill said.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications for the low income energy assistance program will be taken on Fridays from 10 am-2 pm at the Vernonia Senior Center. Call 429-3912 to make an appointment.

LADY GOLFERS TO MEET

The first meeting of the year for the Vernonia Ladies Golf Association will be held at the golf course on Monday, April 13 at 5:30 pm. There will be an election of officers for the coming year and a discussion of plans for summer events.

All ladies interested in golf are welcome and invited to attend.

PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Vernonia co-operative pre-school registration day will be Friday, April 10 at the First Christian Church at Washington and North Streets. Registration fee including \$5 insurance for 3 year olds is \$13 and \$21 for 4 year olds. To register your three year old be there 9:30-10:30 am, 10:30-12 noon to register four year olds.

STROKE CLUB

The next meeting of the Columbia County area Stroke Club is scheduled for April 16 at 1:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in St. Helens, 2370 Gable Rd. For more information contact Norma at the Vernonia Senior Center or Greg at 397-4000.

CHEERLEADERS COMPETE

Friday, April 10, the Vernonia High Cheerleaders will travel to Eugene to compete in the State Cheerleading Competition. The competition will be held all day Saturday in the Gerliner Annex on the University of Oregon campus. No admission will be charged for spectators.

The cheerleaders are hoping to bring home another first place trophy to go along with the first place trophies of the past two years.

EMT class scheduled

An Emergency Medical Technician I Class will be held in Hillsboro beginning April 27, 1981. Class times will be from 7 pm to 10 pm Monday and Wednesday evenings. The class is Washington County EMS and Oregon State EMS approved and will be coordinated by Jimmie L. Floyd, EMT IV-Paramedic with Metro West Ambulance. The class will meet Department of Transportation standards and provide inservice both on a paramedic ambulance and in the emergency department of Tuality Community Hospital. The class will also prepare those interested in being able to take the State and/or National Certification Examinations.

Those interested may call 648-1808 or 648-6656 for registration information.

CITY COUNCIL NOTES

Radio network proposed

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Central Dispatch in St. Helens, with the local fire department and timber security networks, at a considerable savings to the city. While increasing the effectiveness. "Due to my location, I can reach areas out here that Central can't even touch," said Sanders.

The council, interested in the proposal, agreed to make a decision at their next scheduled meeting on April 20, saying they wanted enough time to look into the matter, especially, they added, wanting to meet with the police committee and the Ambulance

Association to hear their ideas before committing themselves one way or the other.

It was also decided, in response to any inquiry from St. Mary's Church, that the city would consider any reasonable offer on a lot owned by the city located next to the old St. Mary's Church on Bridge St. According to church officials they are asking because two prospective buyers asked about the city property when considering the site. The city lot was originally purchased to create a right of way for water and sewer lines.

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