

PCC presence increasing educational opportunities in Vernonia

By Schann Nelson

Good things are happening. After years of having very few options for post-secondary education in Vernonia, Portland Community College (PCC) is developing a real presence in the community. The high school, the business community and adult learners are all getting classes here in town.

Patty Dickens, School-to-Work Coordinator at Vernonia High School, in cooperation with the Vernonia and Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Districts has developed a partnership with PCC that provides several options. Students who are ac-

cepted into the program will have the opportunity to complete up to three courses: Entry Level Fire Fighter, Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II. Successful completion of these courses results in national certifications that will be recognized by PCC. After this first semester, PCC has also agreed to discuss course articulation that could result in students receiving dual high school and college credit.

The Vernonia Business Assistance Team (BAT) has received funding for a series of courses for people who are considering starting a business or who have young business-

es. Mario Pedraza, an instructor with PCC's Small Business Development Center, is eager to begin classes. The first two twelve-week courses will guide students through all aspects of starting and developing a business and, when finished, students will have a fully developed business plan. The courses will be held in the evenings in Vernonia. There will be a \$50 cost to participants. Contact Mike Sykes at City Hall, 503-429-5291, if interested. (See related article on Page 4 for more information.)

Five school district employees, several high school students and other community

members meet once a week to work on their writing skills. When successfully completed, the course will result in credits transferable to Oregon colleges and universities. The course is taught by PCC instructor Lorraine Anderson, who has agreed to continue teaching PCC courses in Vernonia and will offer either an-

other writing course or a speech course next term. Anderson is also considering offering the English 104 series next year. This is a great opportunity to get college credit without having to commute. Anyone interested in these courses, should contact Glenda Delemos at Vernonia High School, 503-429-3521.

Youth baseball planning starts up

Adults interested in participating in activities of the Vernonia Youth Summer Baseball Association are invited to meet with the group on Wednesday, January 24, in the Washington

Grade School library at 6:30 p.m. Adult volunteers are needed for the Board of Directors,

coaching, assisting, fundraising, playing field maintenance and operation, or to be available to help in many different ways.

Agenda for the meeting includes election of board members and getting things underway for the spring/summer program.

Film tells cancer survivors' quest

Columbia County Women's Health Awareness Committee (WHAC) will present a free screening of the film *Silent Spring* on Thursday, January 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Columbia Technology Center in St. Helens.

The film portrays the journey of breast cancer survivors as they travel across America trying to learn about the potential causes of breast cancer. Dur-

ing their research, physicians, environmentalists and corporations are all asked to identify probable causes of breast cancer.

After the viewing, there will be an open discussion about questions raised in the film.

Donations will be accepted to help promote WHAC programs on health-related issues in our community.

Firewood sale to help X-Country team

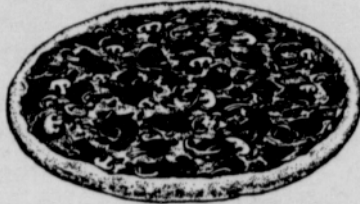
The Vernonia High School Cross Country team is selling fire wood as a fundraiser for a team trip. Cut, split and delivered, the price is \$100 a cord.

For more information, call Sue Robertson at 503-429-4901.

Never mistake motion for action.

— Ernest Hemingway

LEONETTI'S Pizza & Grill



Daily Lunch Specials

Dinner Specials 5-8 pm

Soups & Salads

Watch this space for weekly menu & specials
WE DELIVER • PARTY PLATTERS AVAILABLE
721 Madison Ave., Vernonia • 503 429-5018

VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC



Rabies
Special

\$6⁵⁰ Dog or Cat

Every Thursday
10 am - 5:30 pm
Clinic open at 9:00 am

58376 Nehalem Hwy. S., Vernonia, near Sunnyside Cafe

Teacher honorees include VHS staff

A group of approximately 114,000 teachers nominated and accepted into "Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2000" included Patty Hudson and Jill Griffin, both on the staff at Vernonia High School.

The honor is reserved for teachers selected by one or more of their former students who have been listed in either "Who's Who Among American High School Students" or "The National Dean's List."

*Please don't drink
and drive. Neither
jails nor hospitals
are enjoyable.*

Community Calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

VERNONIA

Al-Anon	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	Noon, Lew's Place
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Girl Scouts	Thursdays	6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Narcotics Anonymous	Thursdays	6:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 429-4074
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	4th Thursday	For location call 429-2401
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors	1st Thursday	For location call 429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Comm. Dev. Corp.	2nd Tuesday	Noon, City Hall
Vernonia Grange	2nd Friday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 429-5201
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	8:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	1st Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st & 2nd Thurs.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st & 2nd Wed.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Rescue	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Wednesday	10:00 am, 755-2346 for info.
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Sundays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Brown Derby
Citizen Participation Org.	3rd Monday, odd months	7:15 p.m., City Hall
Friends of the Library	1st Saturday	10:00 a.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Tri-City RFPD Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1)	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.