

## Ridge Riders elect 2001 officers

The Vernonia Ridge Riders held a short business meeting to elect officers for the coming year, and otherwise enjoyed their annual banquet, held January 16 at Cedar Ridge sports camp.

George Bellingham retained the office of president. Also re-elected were vice-president Tony Gilbertson, and treasurer Jeri Cropp. Patty Ogden was elected secretary and Ross Bellingham, publicity secretary.

Ross and Liz Bellingham were presented with this year's outstanding member award by last year's recipients, Vern and Beth Weaver.

Over fifty members attended the festive event, which included a social hour, silent auction, and potluck dinner. After dinner, a horse trivia game was played with fierce competition from all teams.

Merchants who donated items for the silent auction included Vernonia Western Auto, Alston Corner Feed, Hi School

Pharmacy in Clatskanie, Gardner Farm & Home Supply, The Birkenfeld Store, Buds and Blooms, Napa Auto Parts in Vernonia, One Hour Photo Express in Longview and Valerie Mack. The auction raised more than \$300, with half the proceeds being donated to the Vernonia High School Equestrian Team.

The first meeting of 2001 will be on Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m., in the Vernonia Library. The calendar for the coming years' events will be considered.

For further information, call George Bellingham at 503-429-9523.

### Special assembly notes Read Across America

A special assembly will be held at Washington Grade School on March 2, for Read Across America 2001. This year's theme is *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

The assembly will feature Brenda Havlik of the Oregon State Police office in Scappoose. Havlik, who will be in uniform, will sing some of the songs that tell stories from her CD.

For more information about Read Across America, visit [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)



Drill team members of the Vernonia High School Equestrian Team were caught at practice before their first competition in McMinnville this past weekend. In spite of first-time jitters, the team did well, even placing third out of 14 teams in the in-hand obstacle relay. Drill team members, above from left, are Jessica Allison, Sarah Sook, Brian Landry and Elizabeth James. Rounding out the team are Brandi Abney, Sarah Johnston, Kendell Nelson and groom Travis Graham. Barb Carr is the team advisor and coach.

## Columbia Center exhibit will feature work by youth

Students are invited to submit their artwork for the "Arts as the Heart of Learning" exhibit at the Gallery at Columbia Center, 375 S. 18th Street in St. Helens. Art from children in kindergarten through high school will be accepted from

4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, at the Columbia Center. Application forms to inventory and submit work are available at some school offices or by calling the Columbia Foundation at 503-397-1139, or Jan Rentenaar at 503-397-7873.

This annual display of student artwork is designed to showcase the creative talent in Columbia County Schools.

"Arts as the Heart of Learning" is sponsored by St.

Helens Community Credit Union and Dillard's Moorage and coordinated by the Columbia Foundation Arts Committee. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each of three categories: Grades K-3, 4-8 and 9-12.

A catered reception will be held on Friday, March 2 from 6-7:30 p.m. All student artists and their teachers are invited to visit with other community members.

## Alumni, varsity basketball game

Vernonia High School Alumni will battle it out with the VHS varsity basketball teams in games scheduled for March 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the VHS gym.

The varsity boys team will play the alumni men and the varsity girls will meet a team of alumni women.

Alumni interested in participating should call Tim Titus, evenings, at 503-429-8250.

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# Community Calendar

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

VERNONIA	MIST-BIRKENFELD	COLUMBIA COUNTY
Al-Anon Mondays 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	M-BRFPD Board 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station	Board of Commissioners Wednesdays 10 a.m., Courthouse
Alcoholics Anonymous Mondays 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	M-B Ambulance Assoc. 1st & 2nd Thurs. 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Citizens for Senior Justice 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Alcoholics Anonymous Saturdays 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	M-B Firefighters Assoc. 1st & 2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	COLCO Transportation 2nd Friday 10:30 a.m., Courthouse
Arts & Crafts Society 2nd Thursday 2:00 p.m., City Library	M-B Rescue 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	County Council of Seniors 2nd Friday 1:00 p.m., Courthouse
Boosters 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Helping Circle 2nd Wednesday 10:00 am, 755-2346 for info.	County Fair Board 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 201 Tuesdays 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	Natal Grange 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Grange Hall	County Parks Commission 3rd Monday 6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Boy Scout Troop 860 Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., LDS Church	T.O.P.S. Sundays 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1) 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Courthouse
Cemetery Beautification Comm. 2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m., City Library		Historical Society 4th Wednesday Noon, location call 429-3713
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		

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.