

Work of emergency dispatchers recognized during special week

The week of April 8-14, 2001 is recognized throughout the United States and Canada as National 9-1-1 Telecommunicators Week. This annual event recognizes the people in every community who answer your emergency 9-1-1 calls for help. These individuals are never seen, and are heard by you only as the voice on the phone during your time of need. They are "behind the scenes" making sure you get the police officer, firefighters or paramedics you need as fast as possible.

The staff at the Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District

averaged a three-second answer time for the more than 80,000 calls for help they received during the past year. The center receives both emergency (9-1-1) and non-emergency calls and dispatches law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical services for 14 agencies in Columbia County, plus small portions of Clatsop and Multnomah Counties. A staff of twenty employees fills a twenty-four hour duty roster, 365 days a year, ready to assist you when an emergency occurs.

Call 9-1-1 when police, fire

and/or emergency medical help is needed, when you see smoke or fire, or smell dangerous gas, when life and/or property is in danger or threatened, when a crime is being committed or has just occurred, to report a dangerous traffic hazard or dangerous driving.

Children should be taught to call 9-1-1 for police, fire or medical help. The sight-impaired can use either the telephone or a preprogrammed speed dial button. Those with hearing and speech impairments can use their TTY machine. Non-English speaking callers to 9-1-1 in Columbia County are immediately connected to Language Line interpreters in a three-way conversation.

When you call 9-1-1, a dispatcher takes your information and then dispatches the appropriate police, fire and/or emergency medical team for your need. While you are talking to the dispatcher, emergency crews are heading to your location even though you may not have heard the dispatcher relay your information.

Answer all of the dispatcher's questions as well as you can. You may be given instructions, especially if you have an emergency medical situation that may benefit from simple first aid procedures until help

arrives.

9-1-1 is only a telephone number. Quick response depends upon the information which you provide. Remain calm and speak clearly. Tell the dispatcher what is happening, where it is happening and what your name, address and phone number are. Remain on the phone and do not hang up unless you are in danger or until the dispatcher advises you to. 9-1-1 is not for jokes; it is for those who need help.

Post your address, phone number and nearest cross street by each telephone so any babysitter, friend, visitor or family member will be able to give the information needed for a quick response.

Your house numbers need to be visible from the street, in daylight or darkness, or clearly

posted where your driveway joins the main road.

For non-emergency police, fire, medical, after hours road department or animal control situations that require assistance in Columbia County, call 503-397-1521 or 1-800-696-7795. Using the non-emergency phone numbers keeps the 9-1-1 lines clear for those who need emergency assistance. However, in Columbia County, the same dispatchers answer the emergency, business and non-emergency phones. The highest priority is the 9-1-1 emergency lines, of course, so when you call the non-emergency or business phone numbers, you might be asked to hold a few minutes, if staff are handling emergency situations. They will return to assist you as soon as possible.

Parrow will head Jamboree effort

The next meeting of the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree committee will be April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at Lew's Place. Thereafter, meetings will be held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Lew's, until further notice.

Any individual or group that is planning an event for Jamboree, should attend a meeting

soon so their activity can be included in the Jamboree event paper and advertising bulletins.

During the March 22 meeting, the following officers were elected: President Randy Parrow, Vice President Glenda DeLemos, Treasurer Treasa Staggenborg, and Secretary Katie Poetter. The following committees were formed: Grand Marshall & Citizen of the Year, Advertising, Parade, Waste Management, T-Shirt sales, Vendors, and Children's Games. Anyone who would like to serve on a committee is welcome.

The contest for this year's theme is now underway. Please mail your suggestions to Vernonia Jamboree Committee, P O Box 244, Vernonia OR 97064. The winning entry will receive a \$50.00 savings bond from U.S. Bank. The theme will be announced in *The INDEPENDENT* on May 16.

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Community Calendar

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
	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
1	2	1	1	1
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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	Wednesdays	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