

VHS musicians again participate in Music in May

Five Vernonia High School students were selected to participate in the 53rd annual Music in May Festival at Pacific University. Genevieve Blais, Myriam Gendron, Joseph Rea, Brass Sears and Jessica Soderback, along with student musicians from other communities throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho, will participate in the annual festival, the only college-sponsored high school music festival in the Northwest. Though the festival concluded with a final concert on May 26, the program of

ffered some 600 student musicians three days of workshops, lessons and rehearsals.

The final concert featured four conductors, including Dr. Michael Burch-Pesses, chair of Pacific's Department of Music; Dr. André Thomas, director of choral activities at Florida State University; Huw Edwards, musical director of the Portland Youth Philharmonic; and Eugene Corporon, director of wind studies at the University of North Texas. Twenty-six Pacific University students served as proctors during the festival.

Music in May was started in 1948 by former Pacific University music education Professor Richard Greenfield, to assist high school string instrumentalists. The festival was later expanded to include band and choir, and is now considered the longest running high school festival of its kind in the Northwest, and the only collegiate-sponsored, large-ensemble event in the region. Students are selected to participate based on their school music ensemble director's recommendation and the instrumentation needs of the ensembles.



Four of the five Vernonia High School students selected for participation in Pacific University's "Music in May" program are, from left, bass/baritone Jake Brock, soprano Genevieve Blais, cellist Myriam Gendron-Dupont and bass/baritone Joey Rea. Not shown is clarinetist Jessica Soderback.

Head Start is taking applications for upcoming year

Applications for Head Start, a federally funded pre-school program, are being taken now for all three and four year-olds in Columbia and Clatsop Counties. Recruitment for fall enrollment is now in progress and will be completed by the end of June.

Prospective students must be three or four years-old by September 1, 2001. Children must be from limited income households or have a disability and/or special needs to qualify.

The Vernonia Head Start is located on California Ave., near Washington Grade School and adjacent to the Blue Heron Hollow townhouses. Families who live in the Mist, Birkenfeld and Vernonia areas may call Gina Dixon at 1-503-429-9243 for more information. Parents who are interested in enrollment information are urged to phone immediately.

The program incorporates a total family program that includes nutrition, education,

medical and dental services for the enrolled child and home visitations. USDA approved meals are served. Additionally, training on various subjects and on-the-job training is offered to all enrolled families.

Head Start is an agency of Community Action Team, Inc., serving Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. The program is open to children regardless of race, sex, creed, nationality or disabling condition.

Puppet show will rope in readers for summer of fun

Yippee, Yi, Ki, Yo, all you cowpokes!

"Jumper the Pony," a marionette show, will kick off the Summer Reading Program at the Vernonia Public Library on Thursday, June 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Celeste Rose, of Oregon Fantasy Puppet Theatre in Eugene, will present a story with a cast of 16 colorful string puppets made of papier maché and fabric. Jumper is a pony that belongs to Sheriff Bob, who leaves the pony with a little friend while the sheriff is

chasing bank robbers. The story is fun for all ages.

The summer reading program is a project of the Oregon Library Association. The 2001 sponsors include the Craig Berkman Family, Ford Family Foundation, Meyer Memorial trust, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and Wells Fargo Foundation. These community partners make a critical difference in statewide summer reading programs and are to be commended for enabling libraries to present quality programs for youngsters this summer.

A complete schedule of the library's summer events may be obtained at the library. All activities are free of charge and will take place on Thursdays from June 21 through August 2. On each of these days, a 1:00 p.m. event will be held, with some additional, special presentations at 7:00 p.m. Reading is being stressed, with prizes to be awarded for each three hours that youngsters spend reading.

Come "horse around" at the library this summer and have a "rip-roaring" good time.



Governor John Kitzhaber and his wife, Sharon, joined S.T.A.R.S. teen leaders in celebration of another successful year for the abstinence-based, pregnancy prevention program, at Hollywood Bowl in Portland. From left are Vernonia S.T.A.R.S. coordinator Juanita Dennis, student Myriam Gendron-Dupont, Mrs. Kitzhaber, Gov. Kitzhaber, and students Christie Benes, Bonnie Buchan, Megan Serra-Marshall and Elisabeth Brookins. Not shown is Waylon Buchan was also a teen leader in Vernonia.

Child care available during VHS graduation program

Child care will be available during graduation ceremonies at Vernonia High School this year. The service will be pro-

vided at the high school, in Room 6, by students who are raising funds for their Washington, D.C., 2001 trip.

There will be adult supervision at all times. There is no set fee; donations will be accepted.

Teacher's work brings recognition

Marguerite Nice, long-time kindergarten teacher at Lincoln Elementary School was selected by the Columbia Foundation as Teacher of the Year for the Vernonia School District.

Nice was one of seven teachers the Foundation named for awards during the 42nd annual St. Helens-Scappoose Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet on May 17.

This is the fourth year that the Columbia Foundation has sponsored the awards. This year's program was made possible through the cooperation of school districts and chambers of commerce in Columbia County.

Teachers from each of the school districts in the county were selected to receive the Teacher of the Year Award. People who nominated teachers also presented the awards. Most of the presenters were students or parents of students in the teacher's class.

Teachers selected for the honor from other districts included Shari Noldge from McBride Elementary School, St. Helens School District; Darlene Franklin from Otto H. H. Peterson School and Ed Rees from Scappoose High School, Scappoose School District; Yolanda Brackman from Clatskanie Middle School, Clatskanie School District; Anita Laing from Hudson Park Elementary and Joan Smith from Rainier

Intermediate, Rainier School District.

"There were a lot of excellent teachers nominated for this award. The selection committee had a difficult time deciding between all the deserving candidates," said Bonnie Moss, who has led the project for the Columbia Foundation.

More than 400 nominations were submitted. Students, parents, co-workers and various community members nominated teachers.

"It is wonderful to see the love and support the community has for our teachers," said Moss.

"Teachers have a lasting effect on the lives of our children. Outstanding teachers should be commended for their efforts to make our communities a better place to live," Moss concluded.

The event was sponsored by Boise Cascade Corporation, US Gypsum, St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union, Wal-Mart, Representative Betsy Johnson and Armstrong World Industries.

The Columbia Foundation is a community-based non-profit organization. Teacher of the Year helps Columbia Foundation achieve its mission to "create and nurture an environment which values life-long learning and building community relationships."

Young teacher for craft workshop

Following the successful pen and ink wash demonstration by Tony Hyde, the Vernonia Society of Arts and Crafts will offer two programs during the month of June.

On Wednesday, June 20, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., April Kinney will demonstrate the process of silk screening. Since this is a process new to most of us, we expect it to be most informative.

The following Wednesday, June 27, from 2:00 to 4:00, Bethany Davis will lead in the making of pressed-flower book marks. This will be the first time the Society has been privileged to introduce a youthful leader for a demonstration and it is sure to be enjoyable and prof-

itable for all attendees.

The public is invited to join members for these sessions held in the Margaret MacDonald Thiele Petti Meeting Room, in the Vernonia Public Library. There is generally no charge, though it is sometimes required when unusual materials are involved.

**INDEPENDENT
ACTION ADS
WORK FOR YOU**

Call 503-429-9410 to
place your ad.