

## History and conjecture about Thanksgiving customs

America's first Thanksgiving, in 1621, was a three-day celebration of feasting and recreation. The prior year was the Pilgrims' first winter at Plymouth, a winter so harsh nearly half of the colonists perished.

By the second harvest, there was reason to rejoice. A peace treaty was signed with the Wampanoag, the Pilgrims' Native American neighbors, and Massasoit, their leader, shared his agricultural expertise, which resulted in a bumper crop. As was common in England, the Pilgrims commemorated their bounty with a harvest festival.

Accounts of the event men-

### Church Bulletin Bloopers

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

tion neither turkey nor pumpkin, our modern Thanksgiving staples. Indian corn was plentiful, however, and four Pilgrim women supervised the feast that Massasoit and 90 of his people attended, bringing five deer as their contribution.

Presumably, the Pilgrims followed English custom and served their neighbors buffet-style; dishes were placed on the table and guests helped themselves. There were no forks, only knives, spoons, and large napkins that were used to pick up hot foods and to tidy the face and fingers. Food could be eaten directly from the serving dish or you could share a trencher (wooden plate). No meal began without saying grace, because the Pilgrims believed their good fortune was due to their relationship to God.

Similar New England harvest festivals evolved into an annual tradition, officially

acknowledged in 1777, when the Continental Congress declared the first national Thanksgiving. President Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1863, after 23 years of lobbying by Sara Josepha Hale, an acclaimed author and editor.

### In the Service

#### Megan Sleezer

Army Pvt. Megan Sleezer has graduated from Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, where, as second in her class, she was an Honor Graduate. She also earned the Sharpshooter badge.

She will be stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash. for four years.

Sleezer is the daughter of Jerry and Kimberly Sleezer, both of Beaverton. She attended school in Vernonia.

## Health Notes

By Audeen Wagner

### Health Partnership

The "Community Health Improvement Partnership" is a committee of residents from all areas of Columbia County who are working together to address issues facing health care services in Columbia County. Sponsored by Columbia Health District, the committee has spent several months holding meetings and forums, and individual members have conducted interviews with community leaders and citizens. They have also conducted county-wide surveys, including a physician-need analysis and an employer study. These activities have produced a wealth of information regarding health care in our area. The Partnership's overall goal is to identify health care issues, develop alternative solutions, and look at social and economic impacts of those alternatives.

Pam Rahn, the facilitator of the Partnership, is very pleased with the results so far. From these assessments, much information has been gained which will help in planning future strategies for delivering improved health care to our communities. The committee will pick six issues to work on for realistic solutions. During the next phase, each of the members will choose one of the areas to zero in on in subcommittees. Health care for the elderly, rural health, prevention, health care for children, and urgent care are just a few of the areas of interest that were identified.

Much more could be said about this new alliance for improving the health care status of our rural communities, but the bottom line is that some pretty dynamic, forward-thinking individuals are working hard to bring about improvements in our health care system. Laura Nichols, Carolyn Keasey and Mario Leonetti are members of the Health Partnership from Vernonia, and they are very enthusiastic about the results so far and future plans that the committee is addressing now. The expectation is that some very positive results will be forthcoming from this effort.

The Columbia Health District, which is also the public health agency for Columbia County, has produced an attractive brochure describing their goals and information, with the slogan on the front saying "Partnering to create a healthier Columbia County." We wish them much success in this work.

### New Clinic Hours

The clinic has decided to make a slight change in its hours of operation. It will now be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 5:00 p.m. It has become apparent that there is a definite need to have the clinic open earlier in the day, and the 5:00 closure still leaves time to pick up prescriptions and to complete appointments in the afternoon.

The new schedule is effective immediately, but it will be on a trial basis. If it works out better for patients, it will become a permanent schedule. The staff hopes that this new schedule will prove helpful to all patients. Please feel free to call the office at 503-429-9191 with any questions or comments.

## Church Directory

### VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Pastor Paul Pastor  
850 Madison Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-1103

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.  
Evening Service  
Youth Ministry  
Children's Ministry \*  
Nursery Available

Men's Ministry 7:45 a.m.  
3rd Saturday each month

### VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Grant Williams, Pastor  
957 State Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-6790

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Church w/Nursery  
Evening Fellowship 6:00 p.m.  
Nursery Care  
AWANA, Wednesday 3:15 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Men's Group, Thursday 7:30 p.m.

### GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

D.J. Dickey, Pastor  
Grant & North Streets  
Vernonia, 503 429-3110

Sunday Services: Adult Prayer & Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.  
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Service:  
All Family Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Darwin Harvey, Pastor  
662 Jefferson  
Vernonia, 503 429-4615

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Thursdays 7:00 p.m.  
Family Night

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

John Cahill, Pastor  
359 "A" Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-1161

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

### NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

Jerry James, Pastor  
500 California Ave  
Vernonia, 503 429-5378

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery available

Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastoral Associate  
Juanita Dennis  
960 Missouri Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-8841

Mass Schedule  
Sunday 12 Noon

Religious Education  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Lee Knowlton, Branch President  
1350 E. Knott Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-7151

Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.  
Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.

Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Kevin Reiner, Pastor, 543-2254  
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.  
Vernonia, 503 429-8301

Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

### ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Grafe, Pastor  
375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall)  
Vernonia, 503 429-3700

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Joel Stith, Pastor  
410 North Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-6522

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Every Wednesday:  
Ladies' Bible Study 9:15 a.m.  
Children's Choir 3:00 p.m.  
Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Women's Fellowship, 2nd & 4th  
Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.

# Senior Moments Bazaar

Quilts ~ Dolls ~ Decor ~ Food  
Gifts ~ Jewelry  
and Much, Much More

**Dec. 1 & 2, 9 am - 5 pm**  
**Vernonia Senior Center**  
*Coffee, Tea & Juice*





