

Dep't of Revenue will help teens with their first income tax returns

More than 80,000 Oregonians between the ages of 16 and 19 are employed and paying taxes through payroll withholding. Those filing their first income tax returns can get online help from the Oregon Department of Revenue.

At <www.steps2cash.org>, first-time filers can access materials needed to complete returns; information about Forms W-2, W-4 and 1099-INT; how to complete a self-calculating Form 40S (short form) and get a refund. Answers to frequently asked questions, along with an explanation of how tax money is spent and definitions of tax terms are available.

Hands On Art workshops on music theory dance, photography and more

Hands On Art will offer a series of workshops this spring on Music Theory, Photography, Water Color Painting, and Dancing. The workshops will be on Saturday afternoons in March and April.

The workshops are designed for adults and serious teens, but children are welcome with their parents. Because this is a fund raising activity for the local

The department believes that teaching students how to file returns is an investment in the state's future. "We want to give them the tools and motivation needed for lifelong tax compliance," said Rosemary Love, program coordinator.

This is the Web site's second year. Last year, the site received thousands of hits and many positive comments from parents, teachers and students about its ease of use and clarity. As one student explained in response to a department survey, "This site was very simple and made it easier than your parents talking to you."

non-profit organization, there will be a fee.

Pre-registration is recommended so there will be sufficient materials for participants; all supplies will be included in the registration fee. More details will be published in future issues of *The INDEPENDENT*. Information will also be posted at local merchants in Vernonia

Spaghetti and Bingo will help fund students trip to Washington, D.C.

A Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night will be held March 15 to help raise funds for this year's group of Vernonia eighth and ninth grade students who will travel to Washington, D.C., in November. Former Washington Grade School teacher, Shan-Start planning for St. Patrick's Day parade

"Will Vernonia have a St. Patrick's Day parade?" is a question that has been frequently asked since the organizer, Pat Knight, and his wife, Darlene, sold Lew's Place.

The answer is "Yes."

On Monday, March 17th, the parade will again form at the Knights' home on the corner of State Avenue and Bridge Street. Wise participants will arrive in time to prepare for the 5:15 p.m. starting time.

Anybody who wants to join the parade is invited to do so. Decorate yourself, your bike, your car, your dog or your float and join the fun along with the Al Kader clowns. There is no registration fee for this home-grown celebration.

non Dotson, has organized the trip and will be accompanying the students.

The group has been working at fundraising since May of 2002, with various activities such as car washes and pop can drives. They also sold concessions at Jamboree and held a 50/50 raffle, with the winner, Dean Johnston of Birkenfeld, receiving a \$484 prize.

There will also be a bake sale and cakewalk. A 50/50 drawing will be held, with tickets for \$1 each. The group will be selling these tickets in the weeks to come. A 25-inch TV will be one of the prizes, along with many others.

For more information, call Treasa Staggenborg at 503-429-4006.

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Chalk Talk

Ed. note: Chalk Talk is a new column that we hope will provide the Vernonia School District with the opportunity to inform the community about details they might not normally be aware of. Administrators will write the column, trading the responsibility each month. Chalk Talk will be published monthly in the second issue of The INDEPENDENT.

By Laurie Harrison, Special Services Coordinator, Vernonia School District

As the Special Services Coordinator for the Vernonia School District, it is my honor to be the first author of the "Chalk Talk" column. Every month (excluding summer months), an administrator will be writing to describe or inform the public of issues of interest within his/her area of specialty. It is my hope that you, or someone you know, will benefit from the information contained within this month's article.

The Vernonia School District currently has approximately 85 students (or 11.6% of it's school population) identified with disabilities. These include learning disabilities, communication disorders, visual/hearing/orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation and other health impairments. It is important for the parents of students with disabilities to know that they may be eligible for a tax exemption because of their child's disability.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Educa-

tion Act and Oregon law, eligible disabilities include the following:

Autism, Visual Impairment, Mental Retardation, Serious Emotional Disturbance, Traumatic Brain Injury, Hearing Impairment, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Multiple Disabilities, Deaf-Blind.

Parents who are unsure as to which disabling condition their son/daughter has been identified with should contact the case manager for their child's IEP. The case managers are as follows:

- Grades K-6, Karen Johnston, 503-429-7941
- Grades 7-8, Kathy Pennington, 503-429-7941
- Grades 9-12, Cheryl Watt, 503-429-3521

The Special Education department is pleased to announce that, as the result of receiving a grant, we are currently staffed with a full-time School Psychologist. I believe that the two individuals filling this position are wonderful assets to Vernonia's students and staff. Both individuals (Bonnie Lancaster and Jim Banaghan) are excited to be in Vernonia and hope to help as many students and staff as they can, in addition to conducting Special Education evaluations.

I look forward to a great remainder of the year, and am always glad to answer any questions you have regarding special services. I can be reached at 503-429-3521 or via e-mail at <lharrison@vernonia.k12.or.us>

Vernonia students honored for academic performance

Vernonia students who have received recognition for outstanding academic achievement in post-secondary education include the following:

Evie Morgan has been named to the George Fox University Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2002-03 academic year. A senior majoring in elementary education, she is the daughter of Everett and

Ilene Morgan of Vernonia.

Danita D. Angell has been named to the Seattle Pacific University Dean's List for the 2002 Autumn Quarter.

Nicole E. Gwin and Kaifa Hennessey were named to the Western Oregon University Honor Roll for the 2002 fall quarter.

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