

**First Annual
Vernonia
Fall Salmon
Festival
Saturday, October 4**

GED classes offered in Vernonia

Portland Community College will offer G.E.D. Preparation Classes at Vernonia High School in Room 4, Monday and Wednesday, from September 22 through November 26, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Fee waivers are available

with proof of low income, Oregon Health Plan, food stamps, etc. Bring documentation on first day of class.

For more information, call Diane Thompson, Instructor, at 503-244-6111 ext. 3162 or 503-728-2443, or 503-709-7793.

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*The 2.99% Fixed Introductory APR is available with any new or existing U.S. Bank Checking account and a Loan to Value (LTV) of 80% or less. The interest rate will be fixed at 2.99% APR during the introductory period of six months. Higher rates apply for higher loan to values. After the six-month introductory period, the APR will vary at Prime + 0% as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of September 1, 2003, the variable APR for lines of credit is 4.00% to 7.00%. There is a floor rate of 3.99% APR. The rate will not exceed 25% APR. There is an annual fee of \$90 after the first year. Offer is effective for new applications taken by December 1, 2003 and the account must book by December 31, 2003. Offer is subject to normal credit approval. Property insurance is required. Interest on accounts exceeding 100% of the available equity is not tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest. Rate subject to change. Some restrictions may apply. Home equity loans and lines of credit are offered through U.S. Bank National Association ND. Member FDIC.

†To enter, visit any U.S. Bank branch, detach and put the completed entry form in the entry box or mail the completed entry form or your name and address information on a 3"x5" card to: U.S. Bank Comin' Up Roses ATM Sweepstakes, 425 Walnut Street, 4th Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Limit one entry per person, per day. Sweepstakes entries must be received by 11-08-03. For rules and regulations, visit the branch or usbank.com/sweepstakes.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



here in Vernonia and elsewhere, so dig out your woolies, you need them in the mornings, due to fog.

If you weren't among the Vernonians who went to the Marquis Cares Octoberfest in Forest Grove, it was your loss. The Flag Ceremony with the Forest Grove High School Band was awe inspiring. The Armed Forces Medley was a thrill. Who among us doesn't choke up. Why can't Vernonia have the school band play at our local events?

They even had a rock wall to climb. The kids had a ball showing off their skills.

Would you like to restart your ulcer? or blow your blood pressure sky high? My latest issue of *Senior Citizens League Social Security Medicare Advisor* was chock full of news. 1) More fair COLA's; 2) Congress is "working" on a drug bill, that might, if passed, go into effect around 2006. Will you be around for the benefits? 3) One more thing: If you get a call telling you to call area code 809 - don't - it's located in the Dominican Republic and is a pay per call - Since it isn't a U.S. prefix, you are not protected from having to PAY. This goes for e-mail calls, also.

A h ,
s w e e t
rain -
plus cold
w i n d s
a n d
b r i g h t
sunshine.
Also, cold
n i g h t s .
Fall is

I see the ODOT crew was back in town with their paint cans - why?? Our streets look like Spray Can Alley now.

Got a notice from DMV. Come, get an eye check. I'll be 80 soon, I hope the new license isn't good for 10 years. I don't feel, in this day and time, you're a safety risk at 90 and above.

Now, about subjects on the Ballot on November 4. How can people vote down law enforcement issues? Don't say money.

I flit around quite a bit in a month's time on the highways. How much patrolling is done, it is almost zilch. People do not control their speed if there isn't a "presence" once in a while. We need county and city protection, even if some don't think we do.

Now - the "refinancing" (not asking you for more \$\$) for 9-1-1. Vote YES - or we can lose it. Then where will we be?

Astoria had a protest meeting last Tuesday at the Column. Why? Faction one for an Interpretive Center. Faction two said "No," we need school \$, etc. Sorry Folks - that center would teach children more history than any classroom could. Astoria and the areas around it are One Big Classroom for Local History that can't be gotten out of a textbook with tests. Baker City has an Interpretive Center. The Dalles has an Interpretive Center. Even this area should have a small one. There is still a lot of history in this area if you knew where to go and who to talk to.

The North Pole is without sun for 186 days a year (according to a 1980 news article).

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