

Bike Rodeo at WGS on April 16

Vernonia's seventh and eighth grade Community Service Class is teaming up with the Vernonia Police Department to hold a Bike Rodeo on Saturday, April 16, at Washington Grade School (WGS) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There will be bike inspections, drawings, raffles, access

to bike helmet purchasing, fire engine rides, and lots more. This is a chance for kids to brush up on their bicycle safety skills and have fun doing it.

Use the back door of WGS and register in the Music Room. For more information, contact Bonnie Holce at 503-429-7941.

Student Spelling Bee held in May

Public, private and home school students in Columbia County are urged to participate in the 29th Annual Spelling Contest for the State of Oregon.

The competition is held at local school district, county and state levels. At each level, students are expected to write all spelling words. An oral spelling bee is not part of this program. Local school districts will be responsible for conducting and coordinating their own contests. Home-schoolers can contact their local district to participate at the district level. Students have to compete at the district level in order to compete at the county level. Local districts should complete their competition no later than May 5.

The County Spelling Contest will be conducted at Clatskanie School District Office on May 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome to view the competition at the county level. Students will be competing for

the opportunity to go to the state competition held Saturday, September 3, during the Oregon State Fair.

Schilling and Landers awarded all-star honors



Vernonia High School sophomore Joreigh Landers was named to the girls second team basketball all-stars for the Class 2A Northwest League.

Leading the VHS boys team was senior Pat Schilling, who received honorable mention for the league all-stars.

Celebrate Packy's birthday April 16 & 17

Oregon Zoo is throwing an elephant-sized party to celebrate the species that made it famous. Elephantastic, a two-day celebration of Asian elephants April 16 and 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., will showcase training sessions, keeper talks, games and the ever-popular fashion accessory, elephant ears.

The highlight of the event will be Packy's 43rd birthday party, Saturday, April 16 at 2:00 p.m. Keepers will present Packy, the zoo's most famous elephant, with his giant birthday cake. Packy's fans are invited to sing "Happy Birthday" while the prestigious pachyderm eats (or stomps on) his cake. Packy's party, which is the longest-running event in zoo history, has become a great family tradition.

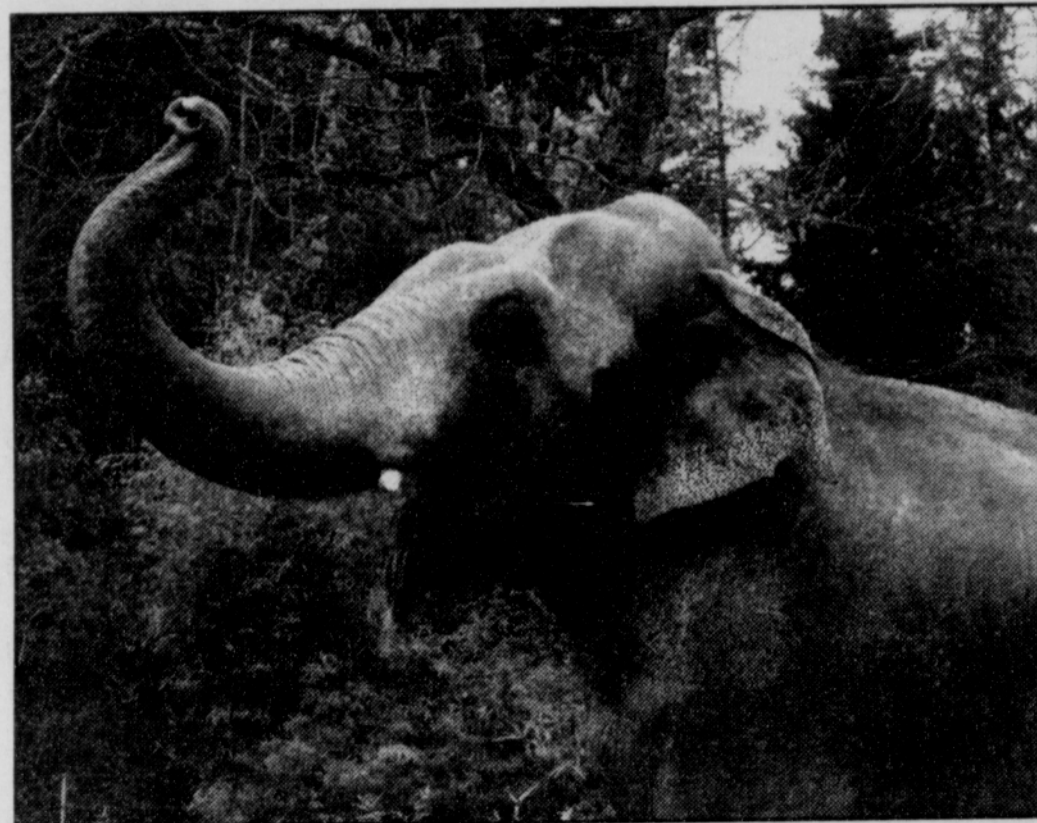
"We decided that, since Packy is so big and so well loved, he needed not just one but two days to celebrate," said Oregon Zoo Director Tony Vecchio.

Packy's cake, baked by the zoo's own Chef Paul Warner, is a 40-pound whole-wheat concoction topped with frosting, apples, carrots and celery.

All guests are invited to share free birthday cake, courtesy of Lamb's Markets, beginning at noon.

Also on Saturday, visitors can meet costumed elephants Eliza and Elliot while they enjoy face painting and games, and the day wouldn't be complete without taking a moment to sign the BIG guy's birthday card.

Packy, the first elephant born in the Western Hemisphere



Packy, the first elephant born in more than 45 years in the Western Hemisphere, turns 42 on April 14, 2005. Join the fun!

in more than 45 years, was born on April 14, 1962, making international news. Gifts poured in, a song was written in his honor and a radio station sponsored a naming contest. Gresham, Oregon resident Wayne W. French submitted the winning name.

Packy is the oldest and largest male Asian elephant in the United States; he stands 10'6" at the shoulder and his average weight is 14,020 pounds. He has fathered seven calves, including 21-year-old Sung-Surin ("Sunshine") and Rama, both of whom currently live at the zoo.

Elephantastic continues on Sunday with elephant training and feeding demonstrations, with a special focus on Rama and his painting activities. Rama will also celebrate his 22nd birthday (belatedly) with a special cake in the indoor

gallery on Sunday, April 17 at 1:00 p.m. (Rama's birthday is April 1).

Elephantastic is free with regular zoo admission.

The zoo opens at 9 a.m. daily and is located just off Highway 26. It is also accessible by MAX light rail line.

Banks Academy will hold open house April 15

There will be an open house and OMSI night at Banks Christian Academy, 22785 NW Fisher Road, Buxton, on April 15, starting at 6:00 p.m.

A portable planetarium will be present along with the student science and art fair. This community event is sponsored in part by the Forest Grove Rotary Club and private donors.

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Get rid of household hazardous waste

Metro offers a variety of programs and events to help keep our environment safe and healthy.

Bring unwanted hazardous household products such as pesticides, leftover paint, solvents and automotive fluids to one of Metro's hazardous waste events. We'll recycle them or dispose of them safely.

April events in Washington County are from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the following days:

April 8 and 9 - Glencoe High School, 2700 NW Glencoe Rd., Hillsboro.

April 15 and 16 - Tualatin High School, 22300 SW Boones Ferry Rd., Tualatin.

April 22 and 23 - Intel Ronler Acres campus, parking lot RA1 (enter off North-west 229th Street), 2501 NW 229th St., Hillsboro.

Once you've cleaned those products out of your home, consider using "greener" methods.

Natural gardening relies on techniques that build healthy soil, encourage a diversity of plants, keep a balance of beneficial and pest insects, and

maintain a more complex garden ecosystem.

Special two-topic seminar:

Attracting more beneficial insects means fewer pests and a compost tea primer 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at Cornell Farm, 8212 SW Barnes Rd., Portland.

Visit www.metro-region.org for a complete list of Metro's free seminars. Reservations are required and limited to the first 100 for each event. Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.