

PEO wreaths to be sold at Bazaar

Stop by the PEO table at the Vernonia Christmas Bazaar if you have not already ordered your Christmas wreath. These wreaths have become a tradition of the local festivities.

They not only look lovely, but they smell deliciously. Each is hand-tied using a variety of Oregon greens which have

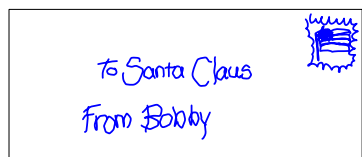
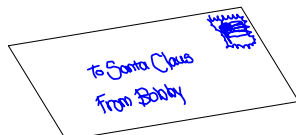
been dipped in a biodegradable preservative. Prices begin at \$18.00. Boxes for mailing are available.

Profits from the sale of wreaths and other handmade items goes to the scholarship and educational programs supported by the PEO organization.

Santa's mail box at Fire Station

Children may mail their letters to Santa Claus at a special mail box set up outside the Vernonia Fire Station. The mailbox is sponsored by volunteers of the Vernonia Rural Fire District who will help make sure Santa answers letters received.

The mailbox will be available until Christmas Day.



Above, Dale Webb was one of a group of people who recently put holiday lights on the trees by the Welcome to Vernonia sign.

ZooLights once again shine for holidays

One of the Oregon Zoo's favorite holiday attractions is more environmentally friendly this year. The ZooLights display includes more than 400,000 "LEDs," light-emitting diodes that use a fraction of the energy of conventional bulbs. ZooLights features more than 750,000 individual lights and plans to eventually replace the remaining 350,000 mini lights with energy-efficient LEDs.

The LEDs will save about 18,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity over their month of operation, compared to conventional bulbs — about the same consumption as 20 average-sized homes.

"Since Oregon Zoo is a conservation organization, we want to be a leader in energy efficiency," said Krista Swan, zoo event coordinator. "The zoo has been using LEDs for several years and we continue to add more each year. Using these energy-efficient lights helps the plants and animals that we're trying to save."

ZooLights illuminates life-sized animal silhouettes, trees,

buildings, walkways and the zoo train. The zoo added 210,000 LED lights this year, more than doubling the amount in the display. LEDs use only about one percent of the power of standard (C-7) holiday lights, and about 10 percent of the power in a mini-light. LEDs are also small, long-lived and very hard to damage. As the technology evolved in recent years, the price of LEDs has dropped and they are now available in home holiday lighting and common uses such as flashlights and bicycle lamps.

Oregon Zoo visitors can enjoy the 18th annual lighting display through December 31. ZooLights is sponsored by the The Boeing Company, and is open from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5 to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The festival is closed December 24 and 25.

The zoo opens at 9 a.m. daily and is located just off Highway 26. The zoo is also accessible by MAX light rail line. General admission is \$9.50 (12-64), seniors \$8 (65+), chil-

dren \$6.50 (3-11), and infants two and under are free. A parking fee of \$1 per car is also required. Additional information is available at <www.oregonzoo.org> or by calling 503-226-1561.

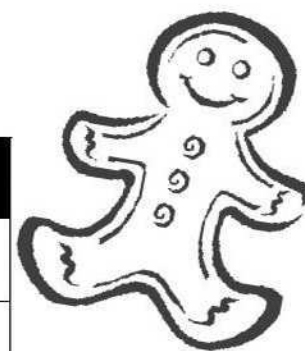
Adopt a family for the holidays

Community partners and host families are being sought by Columbia County Women's Resource Center/The Starting Place (CCWRC) shelter for this year's holiday Adopt-A-Family project.

Last year, with generous donations from community businesses, community partners and families, CCWRC was able to brighten the holidays for over 230 people throughout Columbia County. These families received gifts of food, clothing, winter coats, toys and Christmas trees for families.

To adopt a family this Christmas, or for more information about the program, call Ollie Gibson-Lavell at 1-866-397-6161.

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