

Talbott named All Around cowboy



Above, Dustin Talbott rides Chubb in the 2006 Vernonia 4th of July Parade. Look for him in the 2006 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree parade on Saturday, August 5.

Four year-old Dustin Talbott, of Vernonia, has earned the title of Pre-Pee-Wee Reserve Boys All Around cowboy.

You might know Dustin and his white pony, Chubb, from their participation in poker rides, mounted shoots, horse play days and every parade in Vernonia.

Pre-pee-wee riders have the option of being led through the course by parents (this is called leadline), but the kids who do the course without help get a higher score.

Dustin tells his mom "I can do it myself!" and rides the course at a walk, occasionally getting the 30+ year-old Chubb to move into a trot. The Rodeo announcer calls Dustin the "casual cowboy", because as he

rides he waves to everybody in the grandstand.

The kids (approx 15 contestants) compete in three events for the title of Pre-Pee-Wee All Around girl or boy. Dustin likes all the events, include barrels, flag race, and goat tail tying. The tail tying is Dustin's favorite.

The parents of these small cowboys and cowgirls will haul their kids and their ponys to St. Paul, Rickreall, Philomath, Clark County, Washington, and Spirit Mountain. The kids must participate in a minimum of four of the six events to qualify for a title.

If you see Dustin, wish him luck. He has several more events to compete at to win the final title.

Find out what makes a family strong

Researchers believe that a combination of traits is what makes a family strong, rather than just one single characteristic. Strengths come from how family members interact with each other, how they treat one another, and what families do as a group and as individuals to support family members. Family strengths include:

1. Positive mental health in parents. Children whose parents say that they feel calm, peaceful or happy are more likely than other children to be positively involved in school and less likely to act out or have emotional problems.

2. Everyday routines. Families with regular routines usually have children who have greater self-control and do well in school. Keeping everyday routines, like eating together

and doing household tasks, is associated with adolescents who are more likely to avoid delinquent behavior and less likely to use drugs.

3. Spending time together. Having fun as a family is related to better outcomes for adolescents. Again, they are more likely to avoid delinquent behavior and less likely to use drugs. Quality time is important for happiness in family relationships.



4. Communication and praise. Positive communication (being warm, respectful and interested in a child's opinions) is associated with the well-being of children. Two-way communication can encourage healthy behavior in adolescents. Adolescents who have parents that use praise, and who go to their parents for advice, are less likely to have behavioral and emotional problems.

5. Monitoring, supervision, and involvement. When parents use praise and encouragement, show awareness and monitor adolescents' schoolwork and social life, their children tend to do better in school and show more socially positive behaviors.

Source: Lucy Schrader, University of Missouri, Human Environmental Sciences Extension.

Titus named chair of 47J board

The first meeting of the Vernonia School District's 2006-2007 school year started with a new superintendent, Ken Cox, and two new directors, Ernie Smith and Tammy Jennings.

The July 13 business meeting was preceded by a workshop to interview each of the three applicants for two school board vacancies. While board members said they thought that all three candidates were capable of doing a good job, it was experience on the district's budget committee that tipped the scales in favor of Smith and Jennings. Board members also expressed the hope that the third candidate, Angie Rhodes, would stay involved in district activities.

At the start of the business meeting, board Chair Randy Hansen administered the oath of office to the new board members. This was followed by the election of Tim Titus as chairperson for the coming year, allowing Hansen to step down.

Kim Wallace was elected as vice-chair.

Committee assignments were also allocated as follows:

- Long Range Planning – Angie Taylor, Smith and Jennings
- Labor Negotiations – Titus and Cari Levenseller, with Smith as alternate
- Policy Review – Wallace and Hansen

The board took care of "housekeeping" items on the consent agenda, naming Cox as chief administrative and budget officer, specifying where district funds will be deposited and naming the district's auditors, insurance agent, attorney, and other minutiae, as required by law. All of these items are on record in the district office.

At the recommendation of the superintendent, the amount of the bond required for the superintendent and finance clerk Dawn Plews was increased

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VHS class of '86 reunion coming

Believe it or not it has been twenty years since the class of 1986 graduated at good 'ol VHS!! Recognizing that everyone is extremely busy now with kids and careers and just the minutia of life, take the time to re-connect with old friends and honor the passage of time.

A get-together is planned on Saturday, August 5, from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. A very casual picnic/potluck affair will be held at the home of Tom and Judy Budge (Julie's parents), 59330 Airport Rd. in Vernonia.

For more information and what to bring, contact Julie Bernards at 503-648-4757 or jbernards@verizon.net. Friends and family of the class of '86 are also invited.

Want to become a Girl Scout?

Do you have daughters between five and 17 years-old? Are your daughters interested in joining Girl Scouts? Are you, as a parent, interested in spending time with your daughters that will help them grow into future leaders?

A Girl Scout troop will be started in Vernonia this fall. All interested parties should contact Kinnell Steward at 503-429-8133 or email mtskys@verizon.net.

FREE **Pet of the Month**
Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter at 2084 Oregon St. Monday through Saturday, 11 am. to 5 pm. 503-397-4353



T-Bone is an enthusiastic little guy who would like to find a home of his own. He is a very loveable fellow that really enjoys attention. He has medium length hair and is black with white on his chest and front paw. He is a lab/blue heeler mix that is about medium size. Please come take a look at him today! T-Bone's adoption fee has been sponsored by a generous donor.

The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

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