

Vernonian sought to help CCF

The Commission on Children and Families is seeking a volunteer representative from Vernonia. Kim Tierney, the current representative, is seeking a replacement and suggests someone who has children in school or is active in the community on behalf of children.

The commission meets 10 times a year, once a month with the exception of August and December. The meetings are held in St. Helens at the OSU Extension office. They begin at 5:30 p.m. and are usually over by 6:45 p.m. In times of bad weather a member may be connected by phone.

Each member chooses an area of focus such as a com-

munity building project (working with other members) or policy and fiscal management or work in the Comprehensive Plan for Columbia County Children. The time devoted to projects is determined by each member.

Currently, there are two vacancies on the 20 member board. Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

For more information, contact Jan Spika Kenna at 503-397-7225, or via email at kenaj@co.columbia.or.us.

This is a great opportunity to promote and sustain the well being of children and families in Vernonia.

New program offers travel abroad

Enrich your world! An innovative new foreign exchange program is offering opportunities for Vernonia high school students to travel abroad to Spain, France, China, Japan, Costa Rica or New Zealand.

Education, Travel & Culture (ETC) is a Portland-based non-profit organization committed to promoting international understanding and goodwill through high-quality educational and cultural exchange programs in the United States and abroad.

The organization is looking for host families to welcome foreign students – for three months, six months or a year – as well as local organizations willing to help provide scholarships for Vernonia boys and girls. The first outbound trip will be three weeks in China this summer.

Get on board! For more information, call local coordinator Carol Sawyer at 503-429-4748, or Scott Garrison at ETC in Portland, 503-222-9803.

Vernonia High School Spirit

By Brittanie Roberts and John Fitch

Things have been a little chaotic at Vernonia High School, as the winter sports have come to a heated close. The Girls' and Boys' Varsity basketball teams attended play-offs, finishing fourth in district, while five of our Logger wrestlers qualified for state. Equestrian is still in action, with Vernonia currently ranked number one in our league. Other activities such as the Senior/Honors English trip to Ashland, and the Vernonia High School blood drive have taken place. Our high school has also welcomed three new students, each one a distinct addition to our student body and our community.

To give you a closer look at our winter sports this year, here is a rundown of the games and matches that took place at the close of the season.

Boys' basketball ended their season with a 6-22 record. The first two playoff games filled Vernonia fans with hope. Game one was against the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates. The game ended with Vernonia taking the victory with an astonishing 79-49 win. The second game was against the Oregon Episcopal Aard-

varks. Vernonia beat Oregon Episcopal 57-51, bringing Vernonia farther into the Lewis and Clark league play-offs. The third game dropped Vernonia from any chance at winning first place by losing to the Portland Adventist Cougars; the game ended 44-60. Still in the running for third place, Vernonia played the Rainier Columbians. Unfortunately, Vernonia fell short and lost 42-46, ending the season at 7th place in our new Lewis and Clark League.

Girls' Varsity Basketball finished the 2006-07 basketball season with a 9-18 record. The Girls' Varsity team made it four games into the Lewis and Clark League playoffs. The first two games were wins; first against Oregon Episcopal with a score of 70-63, and then the second against Catlin Gabel Eagles with a score of 32-30. Unfortunately, the girls lost their third game to the Portland Adventist Cougars with a score of 42-48. The fourth game was a loss to the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates, ending the season at 7th place in the Lewis and Clark League.

The most impressive sports season, so far this year, would have to be that of the Vernonia Wrestling team. The Vernonia Loggers had a winning attitude this year, and ended their sea-

son on that same note. The Vernonia Loggers sent five wrestlers to state this year – Tyler Bernardi, Tyler Corey, Trevor Gwin, Willie Hansen and Tommy Carr.

Hansen and Corey were each one match away from placing in state. Tommy Carr and Trevor Gwin placed 6th in state, while Tyler Bernardi placed 5th. Overall, the team has grown; not only in numbers, but in talent as well.

Friday, February 23, we had our annual donkey basketball tournament and taco feed. The Junior class planned the event with business owners, the fire department, teachers, the Boosters Club, and students, all participating. It was a packed gym with lots of laughs, and the student team taking a victory over the adults. Proceeds from the taco feed went to the Zack Rumbolz scholarship and funds raised from the donkey basketball games went to the Juniors 2007 prom.

The school year is only half over and this next semester looks promising. Grades are high and a whole new sports season has started. Look for the results of Mr. Irresistible, the Vernonia High School blood drive, and the class trip to Ashland in our next article.

Vernonia High School Equestrian Team sets new district record

The Vernonia High School Equestrian Team had a record setting weekend when they competed March 8-11 in McMinnville.

The Birangle Team of Mackenzie Carr and Stephanie Carr place first out of 42 entries and broke the NW District Record of 25.03 with a time of 24.91.

Other top 15 placings in team events of the meet included the following:

Birangle – Bryan Benes and Jamie Benes, 14th place;

Team Canadian Flags – Bryan Benes, Jamie Benes, Mackenzie Carr and Stephanie Carr, 2nd place;

Team Penning – Bryan Benes, Mackenzie Carr and Stephanie Carr, 3rd place;

Drill Team – Bryan Benes, Mackenzie Carr, Stephanie Carr and Ashley Paleck, 2nd place;

In Hand Obstacle Relay – Mackenzie Carr, Stephanie

Carr, Marissa Clement, and Ashley Paleck, 6th place;

Working Pairs – Mackenzie Carr and Stephanie Carr, 6th place.

Vernonia's top 15 placings in individual events included:

Keyhole – Ashley Paleck, 10th place; Bryan Benes, 13th place;

Figure 8 – Stephanie Carr,

12th place;

Barrels – Stephanie Carr, 2nd place;

Steer Daubing – Ashley Paleck 10th place;

Stock Seat – Mackenzie Carr, 11th place;

Trail – Mackenzie Carr, 11th place.

The team is currently in the lead for the high point small

school (schools with seven or fewer competing athletes) award. Seven of the 16 high schools in the district are small schools.

The next meet will be April 12-15 in McMinnville and will determine who qualifies to go to State in Redmond, May 17-20.

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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



Winnie is a little shy but she is really sweet once she warms up to you. She is up-to-date with her shots. Come give her a visit, you'll want to take her home!

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

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