

Popular Holiday Bucks starts soon

The Holiday Bucks program, sponsored by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce, will kickoff its fifth year at participating local businesses on Friday, November 21, and continue through December 20.

The program will be similar to last year's program: Each time a shopper fills a card with \$50 in purchases, they have a chance to win a "Cash Gift Certificate" that can be redeemed at any of the participating businesses.

On the following three Satur-

days – November 29, December 6, and December 13 – there will be drawings from all of the filled cards for \$25 Cash Gift Certificates. The Grand Finale Drawing will be held on Saturday, December 20.

Please check the ad in the November 20 issue of *The Independent* for a complete list of participating businesses and rules. Then, watch for the stores with the "Buck" poster in the window and have fun shopping and getting your card stamped in Vernonia.

Problems hearing on the phone? These phones display the words

Do you have trouble during telephone conversations because of hearing problems? Did you know that you may qualify for special equipment that displays the words the other person is speaking on the screen of a special phone?

The State of Oregon offers the Captel phone equipment,

other equipment and services free of charge for those who qualify. For more information about available services and equipment, go to www.oregoncaptel.com or www.rspf.org or call toll free: 800-848-4442 (voice), 800-648-3458 (TTY), or fax to 800-567-1977.

20 Years Ago This Month

The November 23, 1988, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on page 24:

Columbia County's automated ballot counting system worked very well during the November 8 election, but the count wasn't completed until the afternoon of the next day because of human problems.

Seven precincts' ballot boxes were missing on election night when Richard Peterson, a Mist resident, had an automobile accident while transporting the boxes from Mist and Vernonia to St. Helens. Peterson's car slipped off the Scappoose-Vernonia Highway in a heavy fog, coming to a stop about 10 feet below the road, near the east fork of the Nehalem River.

Peterson, who was unhurt, was picked up by a passerby and taken home. He attempted to call the county clerk's office, but was unable to get through and fell asleep before doing so.

In the meantime, County Clerk Reta Kerry notified the sheriff's office that Peterson was missing. Sheriff Bruce Oester and several deputies looked for the car from the highway, and from a drift boat in the river. After a few futile hours of searching, they called off the search until daybreak.

In the morning, deputies located Peterson's car and ascertained that he was unhurt. Undersheriff George Hewlitt delivered the boxes to the courthouse, with the seals intact.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



T o - day, I'm going to r e a l l y ramble - d o n ' t k n o w what it means? Well, fol-

low along. Fuzzy Wuzzie was a worm, orange belly and black head and tail. Poor fellow got hit by a rain drop. The end.

On the 11th of October, I found a black/gray men's jacket in the berry vines at the lake. Took it home, washed it, took it to the Senior Center and by now it probably has someone who appreciates its warmth.

While reclining on my daveno the other day (yes, I'd been napping), I became aware of a strange sound. I finally realized it was my wall clock. Odd thing - it was going tock-tic. Tock-tic

- quiet, then tic-tic, then tock-toc, tick-toc, stop, tic-tic and back to tock-tic. No, I haven't flipped out yet. Have you ever listened to the silence in your house when you're alone? Not very quiet, is it - really?

When you read this, the voting will be over. Thank you. How many of your must-see programs have you missed because they were pushed off schedule and they weren't ever shown? Politics is fine but you listen to the speech for an hour or so - the men chew it apart and tell you what they said, they said - then the news comes on and you get the speech, the rehash and the 10 and 11 O'clock news reporter's view. Are we dumb or what? I have my T.V. for entertainment and to keep up with current events.

"I'm sorry" to all the people that rang my phone and doorbell this past week. I was busy making Fruit Cakes. Besides -

I had already sent in my ballot.

A word to those planning on running for office in 2-4-8 years down the road. Get out of your neighborhood and into the back roads of the county and make your name and face and ideas known to all before the books come out 25 days before deadline, and jamming the mailbox 6-10 days before deadline is a waste of money - yours and mine - (it becomes garbage).

Now the final bit of info.

I got a phone call (yes, one of those) the gent tells me it's time for me to reorder my "diabetic supplies". I didn't know I had diabetes. I don't believe my doctor knows I have diabetes either - so how come someone in space knows I need to reorder supplies of meds I don't need? Who is invading whose space and privacy?

Bye.

You must remember it's been three weeks since last we met in the paper.

Over 49? You can go to Police Academy

The Vernonia Police Department is working on setting up a Senior Citizen Police Academy. This will be an eight-week program (at no cost) and will include tours of the police department and a graduation ceremony.

Participants will learn about the police department's operations and will meet and interact with several members of the department. Topics covered will

include crime prevention strategies; community oriented policing; crime scene protection and evidence collection, and more.

Individuals who are 50 years of age or older, who live or work in Columbia County and have

an interest in the police department are eligible to attend this police academy.

If interested in attending, call Karen Miller at 503-429-9112 or Interim Chief of Police Mike Kay at 503-429-7335.

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