

Call now to go to Chamber Conference

"Pay it Forward" will be the theme of the first Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce Conference on November 14. The "Pay It Forward" principle is simple...do something for someone with no expectation but that they do something for someone else. In these economic times, which have left many small businesses across the country struggling, the chamber wants to support our businesses by providing tools to help navigate through this storm.

Are you torn between tightening your financial belt or making capital improvements? The chamber will be offering a workshop on Business Economics and Finances – In-

vestor Groups and Loan Opportunities.

Need a new marketing tool? Training will be provided on the Chamber's new offer of member web pages. Learn how to manager your own webpage, uploading pictures, adding maps, or updating customers on your latest special. Other topics covered will be on Customer service, Mainstreet Program, and a presentation by Carol McIntyre ND, LAc on stress reduction.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast at the Vernonia Community Learning Center followed by workshops starting at 9:00 a.m. The event caps off with dinner and the kick-off of

the Holiday Bucks program at 5:00 p.m. The cost for the conference? FREE. All workshops and meals are free to 2009 chamber members or with a prepaid 2010 membership. This is the chamber's "Pay it Forward" to their members.

To participate fill out the form mailed to each business in mid-October, or contact the Chamber by phone, 503-429-6081, or e-mail, info@vernoniachamber.org.

This event is open to everyone in the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce service area but, due to space limitations, will be limited to the first 30 (thirty) responses.

Vernonia Toy & Joy set to start Nov. 14

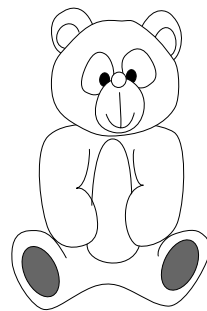
The Vernonia Volunteer Fire Department is once again coordinating a Christmas Toy & Joy program.

To be eligible to receive gifts, children must be 0-14 years of age, and the family must live in the Vernonia Fire District. Appli-

cations will be available starting November 14 at *The Independent* (725 Bridge St.) and at the Fire Department. Completed applications will be accepted at the Fire Dept. or in the holiday mailbox until December 13.

To donate, drop off un-

wrapped toys at Black Bear Coffee Company, Creatures or Vernonia Sentry. Toys will be delivered to families on Sunday, December 20, between 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.



Wood raffle for prom planners

Buy a raffle ticket for a chance at a full cord of dry, split and delivered wood and help the Vernonia Junior class raise funds for prom.

Tickets are only \$1.00 each. The drawing will be on December 18th.

See a Junior Class Student or stop by the District Office to purchase your tickets.

Columbia SWCD schedules meet

Clair Klock, from Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), will discuss Rain Water Collection & Utilization at the monthly meeting of the Columbia SWCD Board of Directors. The meeting will be held

November 18 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Columbia Learning Center, 375 S. 18th Street in St. Helens. The meeting is open to the public.

Hands-on Art Show this Saturday

Vernonia Hands-on Art will hold their fifth annual Community Variety Show this Saturday, November 7, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Vernonia Grange, 375 North St.

There will be music, drama, dance and song with proceeds to benefit Vernonia Grange, Vernonia Cares Holiday Food Drive and Vernonia Hands-on

Art. Tickets will be available at the door; adults \$5.00, kids get in for two cans of food.



Rau to visit Mist

George Rau will be at the Mist Church on Sunday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m. for a country gospel church service. Rau, who grew up in Mist, plays the fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. He will be sharing a few words from his heart and extends an invitation for all to come join him.

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."

Abraham Lincoln

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Senior News

By Karen Miller



The 5-area lunch, held here on Monday, October 26, was a scream – Halloween costumes, prizes, fun and a great lunch with seniors from the other four centers – Clatskanie, Rainier, St. Helens and Scappoose. Entertainment was provided by the Blind Rootin' Hogs. And, sorry folks, Elvis has left the building. See you next year!

Here we are in November and I imagine Christmas is on your mind. To help with your holiday shopping, the Senior Center will be hosting a Christmas Bazaar on November 14 and 15, Saturday from 9-5, Sunday from Noon to 4. Tables are still available for \$10.00 by calling 503-397-3912. Lunch will also be available for \$5. Polish dogs, chips, kraut added for \$1. Maple bars too. See you there.

Vernonia Cares beginning November 1 will be taking applications for Christmas boxes. You may submit yours at 627 Adams, or call 503-397-1414.

Stay safe, stay well.

Vernonia Senior Center: 503-429-3912.

Don't miss M-B Fall Festival

The annual Mist-Birkenfeld Helping Circle Fall Festival will take place November 7, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Mist School.

Events include food sales, door prizes, silent and oral auctions, quilt raffles, grab bags, white elephant sale, and performances by local talent.

This is the only fund raiser the Helping Circle holds. Funds go to take care of the Mist Cemetery, pay for street lights, and put on meals for families after funerals. In addition, a scholarship is given to a graduating senior from the area and supplies are provided to Mist Grade School when needed.

Souper Supper helps United Way

Come One Come All! 16th Annual "Souper Supper" on November 6, at 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Rainier United Methodist Church, 101 C East, Rainier. The cost is a donation with proceeds to benefit the United Way of Columbia County and the Backpack program.

Take your family to dinner on Friday, November 6, and sup-

port local programs. Enjoy a warm homemade meal, bring your family, friends and neighbors, have a great time, and a good meal.

All you can eat!!! Clam chowder, taco, chicken noodle, lentil and fruit soup, bread and crackers, plus dessert and a beverage are included.



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