

## Shop Vernonia for last minute gifts

Local gifts make a difference in the Vernonia community. This holiday season enjoy shopping at local shops. Vernonia can offer gifts for Tiny Tim to even the "Scroogiest" person on your list. If you can't find what you had in mind: Consider gifts of labor, charity and sponsorship. How about gift certificates for massages, haircuts, restaurants, a round of golf, a night at a Bed & Breakfast, a night in a cabin at Stub Stewart State Park, flowers, gym memberships, personal training, Jazzercise, yoga or hypnotherapy sessions, landscaping services or a portrait session.

For children, consider a scholarship for one of the activities at Larry Steele's Cedar Ridge, pay for next summer's swim lessons, rent a band instrument, support the local theater, orchestra, ballet lessons, or youth programs (such as scouts).

Pet owners might enjoy pet grooming, a donation to animal rescue or a paid veterinary visit.

Practical gifts for anyone on your list might include stamps, candles, flashlights, lamps or

other emergency preparedness items, childcare or preschool payments, auto repair or auto detailing, counseling or health care visits, or paying a month's utility bill.

Many community organizations can benefit from a donation in the name of your friend or loved ones, or by gifts of skilled labor. There are many groups that could benefit by donations: Boosters, Vernonia Cares, Kiwanis, Lions, Senior Center, Indigo Rescue, Vernonia Pioneer Museum, radio club, Head Start, Hands On Art, or the Grange (to name just a few).

All of these options can make great gifts and help keep local people working and businesses open.

Find something here in Vernonia for even the person who has everything.



## 50 Years Ago This Month

The December 24, 1959, issue of the *Vernonia Eagle* included the following news story on the front page under the headline, "Auto Company Burglarized Early Tuesday":

The Vernonia Auto company garage was burglarized apparently between midnight and 2:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. The break in was discovered by Ace Lolley, city marshal, in the early morning hours.

Indications are that entry was gained through a window. One safe was opened and the contents taken and another safe was carried off in a new station wagon taken from the shop. That safe was found Tuesday near Treharne where it had been blown and the station wagon was found on Sunset highway.

Local, county and state police were all working on the case here Tuesday and are continuing work in an effort to locate the culprits. One lead is a loaded gun found with the safe.

in the December 31, 1959 issue:

Two youth were picked up late Tuesday of last week who have confessed to taking part in the robbery early that morning at the Vernonia Auto company garage. John Delbert Cornelius, aged 15, and Dennis Raymond Colvin, 19, were taken near The Dalles in a stolen car which they apparently had taken after abandoning the station wagon which they took from the Vernonia Auto garage.

The two youths are in the Columbia county jail at St. Helens awaiting trial and are charged with burglary not in a dwelling and lar-

## Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



A chilly Good Day to you all, wherever you may be. I hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving. Kudos to the weatherman – he was correct – it rained all day. I guess he has to be 'on point' once in awhile.

There are now 13 shopping days till Christmas. My wish for Christmas – that everyone (kids included) come to understand the TRUE meaning of Christmas. Love should be the main gift, not electronics. O.K., I'll come off my personal soapbox.

I am finally free of the catheter in my neck. Treatments going smoothly along and maybe after Christmas my "D" time can be cut 15 minutes. Whooppee (as a test of your sitability, sit with one arm, hand palm up and not moving it, say for 10 minutes. You can flex your fingers if they get stiff). Say, that may be a game you can play with a 'timeout' for an errant child. (Just a thought.)

Saga of the forsythia. I think the cold weather has caught up with it. The blossoms are, shall I say, shriveled, today. I hope it comes to in February when it's supposed to.

## Man found dead after water pipe burst

Vernonia Police and Columbia County Sheriff's deputies responded to a death in Ver-

nonia in the early morning of December 10. The initial call was for a water problem, with water coming out of the house. This occurred during the recent cold weather in Vernonia, with temperatures in the single digits the night before the call.

The Vernonia Fire Department was first on the scene and entered after knocking and receiving no response, according to the Columbia County

Sheriff's Office. In the utility room of the house they found Gordon Falkner, 71, deceased. Water was on the floor, coming from the ceiling. It appears Mr. Falkner was trying to work on the water problem at the time of his death. He was reported to have had medical issues, but the exact cause of death has not been released.

See obituary on page 26 for more information.

## Safety Tip

Can't get traction on snow, ice, or mud? Try pulling out the floor mats from your vehicle and placing them in front of the

tires.

Tip provided by Pat Orlando of Vernonia.

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A follow-up story appeared