

Plan now to help Make Vernonia Shine

What are you doing on Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.?

Vernonia Pride is hoping you're planning to participate in the annual Make Vernonia Shine Day. Vernonia Pride is proud to organize this event, in coordination with SOLV's SOLV IT day throughout Oregon.

This year's event will focus on Vernonia Pride's mission:

downtown beautification. Weeding, debris pick-up, etc. The focus will be on the "downtown core" from the Elk sign to the Lake. If enough people show up to volunteer, work will also be done in our Parks.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Providence Clinic. Snacks and bottled water will be available for volunteers at the end of the clean-up (1:00

p.m.).

Volunteers are asked to please bring your own gardening tools/yard equipment. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Catherine Helmer at 503-914-9525 or email her at catherine.helmer@yahoo.com

Vernonia Pride thanks you for your support of this fabulous activity!

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Hooray!! I've found new freedom on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. No, I'm still on my dialysis, but I've found a way to hold my arm so I can knit for 3 hours and 15 minutes, instead of Crosswords and/or reading. Oh, joy of my heart – along that line my treatments are sailing right along.

March has arrived and so have the rains – soft, medium, or hard – slow drizzle, steady drip or medium, hard downpour. It can all happen in less than five minutes.

I don't know what's happenin' in your town but life is rather dull here. Weather's too lousy to go sit in the park and watch the squirrels, and gas is too high to just hop in the car and go for a drive, unless you are out of milk, eggs and soda pop, or you just have to have Chinese for something different for dinner.

Now there's something to think on. How old are you? I can remember when we had breakfast, noon meal and dinner. Now it's coffee and sweets, lunch munch (McDonald's), coffee break, hi mom – what's to eat (frozen fish), coffee, pop, beer, popcorn and peanuts. Dinner is when you toss on something cozy and go out to the Red Robin, Red Lobster or Chang's with your friends.

The washer has quit, the dryer is silent so I guess I'd better stop here and do some shifting. If the sun shines I may take Shadow for her 20 block walk.

Bye now.

Vernonia seeks committee members

The City of Vernonia has openings on two city committees, the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) and two openings on the Vernonia Community Learning Committee (VCLC).

The EPC will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall. The first meeting will be April

27. The committee recommends changes to the city's Emergency Operations Plan to City Council and City Staff.

The VCLC, with two open positions, acts as an advisory committee to the council and city administrator. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the VCLC.

Applicants for either committee must be city residents and commit to approximately four hours per month.

To apply, complete an Application of Appointment by 4:00 p.m. March 29. The form is available online at vernonia-or.gov (city information, forms and documents) or at City Hall, 1001 Bridge St.

County offers free disability information

Social service agencies in Columbia County are collaborating to host three free informational panels in Clatskanie, Vernonia, and St. Helens, for children and adults with any type of disability. The purpose of the panels is to create awareness for Columbia County residents on the resources and services available in the local community and to provide accessibility to meet in person with representatives from local

human services agencies. These panels will provide the opportunity for individuals to ask questions about what services may benefit them. Individuals with disabilities including those with physical disabilities, veterans, seniors, adults, children, parents, teachers, caregivers, community members, and professionals are all invited to attend.

There will be representatives from several agencies, includ-

ing Seniors and People with Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation Department, Developmental Disabilities Program, Women's Resource Center, Community Action Team, Riverside Training Center, and Columbia Community Mental Health. The panel discussions will include, but will not be limited to, supports for seniors, employment services, advocacy, supports for parents, supports for children, respite care, en-

suring health and safety in the home and community, health care, sheltered housing, transportation, energy assistance, and other community resources.

The Clatskanie meeting will be April 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clatskanie School District Board Room, 555 Bryant Street.

The Vernonia meeting will be April 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernonia Middle School cafeteria,

249 Bridge Street.

The St. Helens meeting will be April 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Columbia Community Mental Health's Community Room, 58646 McNulty Way.

This effort has been organized and sponsored by the Quality Assurance and Advisory Committee for the Developmental Disability Program in Columbia County.

24 Years Ago This Month

The March 26, 1987, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on the front page:

After discussion of the use of city owned vehicles by employees not on duty, the Vernonia City Council, at their March 2 meeting, ordered all such vehicles to be parked except when being used by employees "on call" for city business. Included in the order are police and public works vehicles. The quick response vehicle used by O.J. Zeigler of the fire department is considered on call at all times.

Linda Davies appeared at both council meetings in March in an attempt to open Bucks Skinner's Trading Post in the old

Penney's building at the corner of Bridge and Madison Streets. She explained that she was told in City Hall that she didn't need anything except the license, but learned later that she must apply for a variance from the off-street parking ordinance. Her concern wasn't as much for the \$25 nonrefundable fee as for the 30 day delay after being told everything was in order.

The council approved issuance of the business license, pending approval by the planning commission of the variance request, but told Davies that city ordinances don't allow the council to make exceptions.

The city's two-hour parking ordinance and loading zone

placement for the business section of Bridge Street came under discussion.

Among the concerns were whether enforcement of the two-hour regulation would be cost-effective, and whether it would provide better service to the merchants. The city decided to survey the area physically and talk with the merchants in order to determine the best course of action.

Vernonia's cable television was again discussed, with city attorney Tom Kohl reporting that franchise holder Mike Seager had complied with the portion of the contract that requires proof of insurance, but still had not made his business records available for review. Kohl

agreed to continue in attempts to secure Seager's compliance, but said he felt there was a breach of contract and suggested that the city start making inquiries of other cable companies to see if they are interested in providing service to Vernonia.

The council agreed to provide copies of city ordinances and the state developed book on nuisance abatement to Kevin Robertson, along with a 14 day extension of time to comply with the city's order to abate a nuisance on Robertson's property at the corner of Rose Avenue and Nehalem Street.

BEAR CREEK



PUB & BAR

GOOD FOOD

GOOD FRIENDS

GOOD TIMES

831 Bridge St.
Vernonia, OR
503-429-0214