

Jaden Talent Show raises \$500+

The Joy for Jaden Talent Show, held on April 23, raised \$580 to help Jaden Krieger and his family go to Great Wolf Lodge, and to help with medical expenses. Jaden is a Banks student with cancer. This fundraising effort surpassed the goal set by coordinators.

About 100 people attended the show and were entertained by Roy Stacy, dancing to Michael Jackson's Billy Jean; hip hop dancers Sisi Suesat, Sicily Scott, Rowan Scott, Kelly Smith and Charlette Burghard; singing by Ben Fleck; a song from the duo of Nichole Gardner and Brulé Owen; Alexis

Baska, who performed a cappella; Alex West on drums; the Mad Q band of Mac Brown, Austin Edgar, Dylan Taylor and Quin Johansen; and The New Vintage Trio, Mac Brown, Ryan Stradling, and Josh Lenz.

Lee Anne Krause also entertained the crowd, in the role of "MC Krause in the House," complete with costume changes. Prizes, mostly for fun, were donated by Krause and the four judge panel of Kathy Dalebroux, Ellie Havens, Rebecca McGaugh and Kathy Larsen.

Look for another Talent Show fundraiser this summer.



Jazmin Worthey rounded up hundreds of new and used prom dresses. See story below. Picture by Catherine Helmer

Vernonians without prom dresses get help from Aloha HS Junior

Twelve of the young ladies who attended the Vernonia High School Prom, on April 30, wore new or used dresses obtained from a donation project started by Jazmin Worthey, an Aloha High School junior.

In a very short time, Worthey got the idea for a prom dress give-away, plus fashion show, and organized it.

Then Vernonia resident Catherine Helmer volunteered to drive to Aloha on April 29, where she picked up dresses to fill the need at Vernonia High School. When she showed up with them at VHS, there was an impromptu fashion show with smiling girls who got to dress up for their prom.

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox.

This past week was a busy one for our students as they worked together to sponsor a Red Ribbon Week. The purpose of the week's activities was to bring awareness to students about the dangers of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD). This week was chosen because it culminated in the Prom dance Saturday night. For all the reports I have heard all of the activities were a big success.

Most of the activities were coordinated by the Operation Student Safety On the Move (OSSOM) club at Vernonia Schools. OSSOM "is a youth leadership program which promotes safe and healthy communities" and "creates an opportunity for youth to take a leadership role in prevention." These youth leaders were the main force behind both the Health Fair, last Thursday, and the 'Every 15 Minutes' activity on Friday.

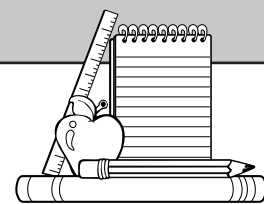
The Health Fair was for grades 5 – 12 and included student manned and prepared booths on Bullying Prevention, Teen Stress Relief, Underage Drinking Prevention, Suicide Prevention, Sugar Intake Awareness, Healthy Eating, Tobacco Prevention, Relationship Awareness, Healthy Eating, Alcohol Tobacco and other Drug Abuse Prevention, Character Building Awareness, ATOD Free Pledge "Piece of the Puzzle," Summer Meals Survey, ATOD Free Grad Night Survey and Fundraiser. Thanks are in order for the

students and staff who helped make this such an outstanding event.

On Friday, the "Every 15 Minutes" activity helped raise student awareness regarding the consequences of drinking and driving. Every fifteen minutes a teen is killed as the result of an alcohol-related accident. To help students understand this statistic, every 15 minutes throughout the day a student was removed from the classroom and then returned as a victim, unable to interact with the rest of the members of the class for the remainder of the day. The activity culminated in an assembly in the afternoon where a short presentation was made.

The Vernonia School District is a proud member of the Vernonia Prevention Coalition (VPC), the sole purpose of which is to raise prevention awareness in our community. Our thanks to DeAnna Pearl, the VPC Director who has done such a great job in helping to coordinate the District's efforts in ATOD prevention, and to Sherrie Ford, a member of our District Wellness Team representing Columbia Health District; plus VMS/VHS Counselor Peter Weisel, WGS Counselor David Spackman and his wife Sonia; VHS Leadership Teachers Terri Willard and Ashley Rogers for their work in making a difference in the lives of our children.

P.S.: Don't forget the Vernonia Community Health Fair this Saturday, May 7th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the VHS Cafeteria!



CLC announces scholarships Car seat event here on May 12

Columbia Learning Center has announced that it will again be awarding \$70,000 worth of scholarships to 14 graduating seniors in Columbia County. The \$5,000 scholarship can be used by students at an accredited college or trade school.

CLC Board President Mari-on Christensen said that "Monies for this scholarship fund come from private, anonymous donors as well as from the proceeds of our annual fundraising event, Black Tie and Blue Jeans, slated for Saturday, August 6, at the Deer Island Stock Ranch." This year's gala event will include a full course dinner followed by a silent and bid auction. Added

board member Brian Little, "It's always a popular venue that raises much needed dollars for students who intend to further their education."

The Columbia Center is located at 375 S. 18th Street in St. Helens (location of the St. Helens Library). For more information, contact Christensen at 503-397-5175.

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat check up by appointment only on Thursday, May 12, in Vernonia. While the clinic is free, please call to schedule an appointment with Natalie at 503-410-3169 to reserve your car seat check up today!

Kindergarteners sign up now

There is still time to get an appointment for the Washington Grade School Kindergarten Round-up on Friday, May 20.

Children must be five years old on or before September 1, 2011 to register. To schedule an appointment, call 503-429-7941.

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