

The concept drawing for the finished New Spencer Park area was drawn up based on input from community member surveys and presented to the public at last night's town hall.



The Vernonia Marching Band was able to march in the 2011 Thanksgiving day Macy's Parade, thanks to sponsorship by Wells Fargo Bank. Photo courtesy of Betsy Miller.

## Public gets look at new park plan

Last night, December 6, the Vernonia School District held a town hall to present the community with the designs for the New Spencer Park, to be built on the current school site.

The plan calls for two construction phases. Phase I will replace the fields, two soccer and one baseball/softball field. Phase II plans call for more fields, another bathroom, a gazebo or covered picnic area, paths, additional parking, some type of historical marker for

Washington Grade School, and perhaps a skate park. The existing concession stand, covered playshed and restrooms will not be razed.

Phase I will start as soon as the old schools are torn down, expected to occur in summer or fall of 2012, with Phase II following as funding is identified.

The current design includes community input from previous town halls, after initial design ideas from the district's architects.

## Public Health WIC staff provides December clinic schedule

The Public Health WIC staff will hold travel clinics in Columbia County December 6-9 — earlier than usual this month because of the holidays. All clinics are from 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. for recertification of clients and new applicants for the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Federal food program.

The Vernonia clinic will be on Friday December 9. Those wishing an appointment can call the WIC Clerk at 503-397-4651 ext. 2015.

There will be no after-hours clinic in December. The Public Health office at 2370 Gable Road in St. Helens, will be closed on Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2, for Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Women who are expecting babies, or who are nursing in-


fants may receive vouchers for nutritious foods, if eligible by income, health risks and nutritional needs. Infants who are not breastfeeding may receive formula vouchers. Children 5 years old or younger may receive food vouchers quarterly.

Columbia County Facts issued by the Oregon WIC program show that in 2010, Columbia County WIC served a total of 2,254 clients, including infants and children under age 5, and pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women. WIC served 967 families.

WIC certifiers travel monthly to five cities in Columbia County to see families, and WIC issues \$728,000 in food vouchers to families annually. The vouchers are redeemable at eight grocery stores, two farmers' markets and one farm stand.

### Pet of the Month

*Find the pet that's right for you at the Columbia Humane Society  
2084 Oregon Street, St. Helens. Phone 503-397-4353  
Open Mon - Fri 1 pm to 5 pm & Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm*



*Lilly  
a  
boxer  
Ausli  
mix*

Hi! My name is Lilly and I've been told I'm very cute and sweet. I know I want someone to go on walks with me. The nice people here don't think I should walk by myself, they say I should have a fenced yard. I like dogs and cats, if they run they are fun to chase. So these nice people don't want me to have a cat. But that's ok because I really like people and if I find a new family that takes me for lots of walks and rides in the car, I think I will be too busy to chase cats. Chasing cats is fun but what I want more than anything is somebody to love me. I'd love them too!

*The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter  
dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.*

**This Pet of the Month is Sponsored by:**

## Senator Betsy Johnson

## Vernonia students in Macy's Parade

For the fourth year in a row the Vernonia Marching Band participated in the Macy's Holiday Parade in downtown Portland, on the day after Thanksgiving. This year the band was sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank. Macy's and Wells Fargo provided a banner, which misspelled Vernonia, but gave the chaperones an opportunity to explain to onlookers where we live. And the band's uniforms still have BHS on the collar instead of VHS because they were purchased with donated funds after the flood and we have not had the time or money to fix them.

Band members do not seem

to mind; they enjoy the parade and look forward each year to lunch at Izzy's buffet afterward.



### New, Used and Handmade Items for Children and Their Families

**10% off purchase of \$25 or more**  
Offer valid one per person expires 12/24/2011

**Holiday Hours:**  
Mon- Sat 10am-6pm Sun 10am-6pm

**725 Madison Ave. Vernonia, OR**  
Phone: 503-429-5049