

Hit and Run on hydrant closes school



This was the scene Monday morning when school should have resumed after Spring break. Damage to this fire hydrant kept school closed for one more day.

Vernonia schools were closed Monday, April 2, after a fire hydrant near the cafeteria building was hit by a vehicle on Sunday night, leaving the school without fire suppression or water service for part of the day.

Anthony G. Bellingham, 26,

Vernonia, was identified as the driver of the vehicle that damaged the hydrant. He left the scene, but witnesses gave Vernonia police the description of his vehicle. After being contacted by Vernonia police, Bellingham went in and gave the police a statement.

Bellingham was cited for Failure to Perform the Duties of a Driver (Accident/Property Damage) and Driving with a Suspended License.

School resumed on Tuesday, April 3, after students all got an extra day of spring break due to the closure.

Disability panel to discuss safety and services

The Advisory Counsel for Columbia County's Developmental Disability Program, with Columbia County-based social services providers, will be hosting an annual free informational panel discussion on services available to individuals with any type of disability(ies). Individuals, parents, teachers, caregivers, professionals and anyone interested, are all invited to attend. The goal of this effort is to increase awareness of the services available locally, regionally, and statewide for those with any type of disability.

Topics will include employment services (such as job coaching and accommodations), safety in the home and community; school, legal, and housing advocacy; supports for Seniors, supports for parents, supports for children, health care, mental health services, veterans benefits, and other community resources. There will be a question and answer time, as well as time to discuss and evaluate the needs of each community in Columbia County.

The first panel discussion will be held in St. Helens on April 10, from 7-8:00 p.m., at Columbia Community Mental Health's Community Room, 58646 McNulty Way. The second panel discussion will be April 17, from 7-8:00 p.m., in

Vernonia at the Vernonia Middle School Cafeteria, 249 Bridge Street. The third and final panel discussion will be held in Clatskanie on April 24, from 7-8:00 p.m., at the Clatskanie PUD, 495 E. Columbia River Hwy.

Register now for parenting class

Parenting Now! classes will be held each Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., starting April 10 at the St. Helens Head Start Community Room (next to McBride School), 2750 Columbia Blvd., off of Tice Rd.

Learn:

- to manage stress in healthy ways,
- to develop realistic expectations of parenting,
- the latest about your child's development, temperament and personality,
- tools for positive discipline and how to set your children up for success, and
- how to enjoy your children and strengthen your family life.

The program is sponsored

by Northwest Parenting Education with support from Community Action Team, Inc.

Register now, as space is limited. Sliding scale fee and child care available. Call 503-556-3736 to register.

Senior Center News

As mentioned briefly in the last issue, the Vernonia Senior Center will hold its annual plant/garden sale on Friday and Saturday, June 1-2. Jack Harvey, who did a great job heading the sale last year, will again coordinate the tasks involved in soliciting, collecting and organizing the event. Please look over your own collection for plants, bulbs, yard art, etc. that you would like to donate.

The center's board of directors meets on the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. Your questions and suggestions are welcome, so why not attend the April board meeting — unless you're wary of Friday the 13th! Naah, the directors aren't at all scary.

This is the first week of the month, so everything in the senior center thrift shop is half price. Take advantage of this monthly opportunity because you won't find better prices anywhere else. The thrift shop is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

You don't have to be a member to enjoy companionship and good food at the center. Lunch is served Monday through Friday at noon, with a \$4.00 donation suggested for those 60 and older, and \$5.00 for those under 60. If you prefer lunch to go, call ahead and place your order. Meals to go are \$5.00.

Breakfast is available every Friday at the Senior Center, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m., at \$3.50 per person regardless of age. Maple bars made fresh daily are \$1.00 each. If you want maple bars for a gathering of any kind, call 503-429-3912 a day or two ahead and place your order.

Foot Care is scheduled on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, at \$15 per person. Call Marilyn Albro, R.N., for an appointment, at 503-429-0406.

Every Friday after lunch is game time. Relax with others while you sharpen your poker or pinochle skills. You can also bring along your suggestions for other Friday activities.

Vernonia Senior Citizens Center: 446 Bridge Street
Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thrift Shop Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Phone: 503-429-3912

Author Lesley will speak April 14 at Vernonia Public Library

Craig Lesley, author of four novels and a memoir, along with numerous other works, will be reading from and discussing his books — especially *The Sky Fisherman* — on Saturday, April 14, at 4:00 p.m. in the Vernonia Public Library.

Mr. Lesley is the recipient of three Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Awards, the Western Writers of America Golden Spur Award for Best Novel, and an Oregon Book Award. Two of his novels, *Storm Riders* and *The Sky Fisherman*, were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

The discussion with Mr. Lesley will be the concluding event of the adult portion of Vernonia Reads for 2012, which was made possible through a grant to the Friends of the Library from Columbia County Cultural Coalition.

Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to attend this free event.

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Sunday 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

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