

## “Stub” Stewart Park to open

Oregon’s first full service State Park in 35 years is getting set to finally open its gates to the public. And in case you haven’t heard, it’s just down the road from Vernonia. Stub Stewart State Park, will officially welcome visitors on July 7th, with a grand opening celebration. The park will be open some time before that, probably in late June. No official date has been announced.

The new park, located about 11 miles south of Vernonia on Highway 47, when completed will feature 15 cabins, 78 full hookup camping sites, 12 walk-in tent sites, and 22 hike-in tent sites. There will also be a horse camp with 16 camp sites, some with full hook-up. The park is 1654 acres in size, with 17 miles of trails for mountain biking, horseback riding and hiking. According to State Parks representatives the new park is expected to draw 300,000 visitors a year.

Next month we will have a full coverage visitors’s guide for the opening of Oregon’s newest State Park, and Vernonia’s newest attraction.

## Fireworks displays in Vernonia

Fireworks displays are scheduled for the following dates: Saturday June 16, 2007 near Hawkins Park and Wednesday July 4, 2007 at the Vernonia High School.

The June 16th display will be the culmination of Fishing with KUPL. The concert will be at Hawkins Park and the fireworks will be ignited across the creek on city owned property near Grant Street.

Fourth of July festivities will be at Vernonia High School at approximately 9:30 pm. The parade will be earlier in the day.

Also, fireworks sometimes frighten pets. Please protect your animals by bringing them indoors or ensuring that they are safely contained.

For further information about either of these displays please contact Tom Ramsey at 503-429-4250.

## Workman’s Words

By Chief Matthew Workman

### Share the Road...

The recent warm weather has increased the amount of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists in and around the Vernonia area. I would encourage all motorists to be extra vigilant and cautious when driving around Vernonia. June will also bring numerous bicycle events to the Vernonia area, which will in turn drastically increase the volume of cyclists on the roadways. As I always state, be patient and share the roadway with all of the various types of traffic.

### Cougar sightings...

The VPD has received reports of various Cougar sightings in and around Vernonia since last Winter. I was recently told that a few months ago a Cougar took a deer down at the base of OA Hill between “B” & “C” Streets. The sightings in town, though rare, should be reported to the Oregon Fish and Game officers. Citizens should be cautious but not to the point that you are overly concerned or feel that an attack is imminent. Remember if you or a family member is confronted or have contact with a Cougar: Make yourself appear larger, DO NOT run away, stay calm and confident, slowly back away, speak in confident voice, never take your eyes off of it, or turn your back. If the cougar becomes aggressive then use a loud voice, remain upright, the goal is to make the cougar think you are a danger and not prey. If attacked, fight back aggressively and stay on your feet.

To report cougar sightings or to report problems with nomadic animals like skunks, raccoons, or opossums you can call Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 503-621-3488. Some helpful tips to reduce nomadic animals around your property are: secure all possible food sources, make sure garbage is in sealed containers and don’t leave pet food out. They are also somewhat protected by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) statutes. According to the ODFW you can’t even trap these animals without a permit from their office.

Also remember it is illegal to discharge a firearm within the city limits. Of course, if the animal is attacking you or your pets you are allowed to responsibly protect yourself. The Vernonia Police Department will provide any assistance possible if the animals are attacking or other emergency situations.

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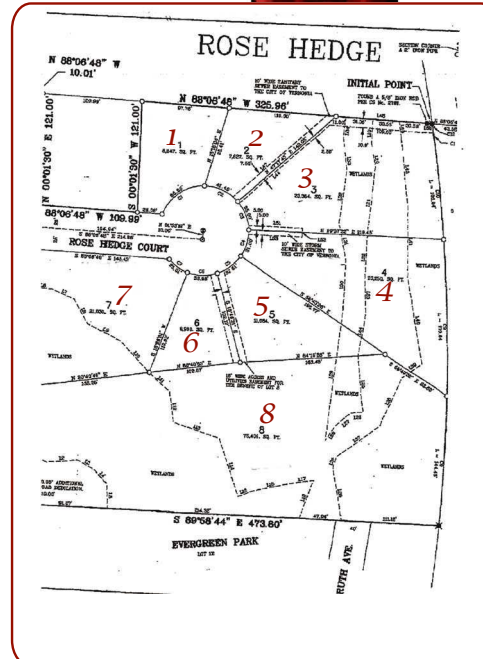
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Build now and build equity in one of the hottest little towns in Oregon. Mountain bike park currently under construction with plans for an amphitheater and RV park next. This town is right out of a Norman Rockwell painting, with a fishing lake, rivers running thru town, an old fashioned swimming hole, walking paths, and little shops and restaurants popping up everywhere!



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