

Alumni News

By Tammy Vanderzanden

Alumni: (definition)- a forum of all past graduates, academic staff, past and present Council members, and other qualified members.

It's Picnic Time- It's time for The Annual Picnic of The Vernonia Society, V.H.S. Old Grads and Oregon American Alumni! The picnic will be held on August 16th this year at Anderson Park. Registration begins at 10:00 AM. Bring a picnic lunch and plan to spend the day reconnecting with long lost friends. Coffee and cups will be provided; hot dogs and soft drinks will be for sale.

This is an excellent opportunity to contact YOUR classmates and plan to meet at Anderson Park. Most of the work is already done! The date, time and place have already been reserved (always the 3rd Sunday in August); the menu has already been planned; and best of all...it's free! Donations are gladly accepted to help cover the cost of coffee, cups, postage, etc. All you need to do is make plans to be there and have a good time. The classes of 1943 and 1958 plan to have a table for members of their classes to gather this year. You are welcome to get there early and set up a table for your group or bring your own table if you can't be there early.

This Annual Picnic has become known as "The Old Timers Picnic". Although many of the attendees may in fact be "Old Timers," it should be noted that this picnic is for past employees of the Oregon American Mill, members of The Vernonia Society, and ALL Alumni of V.H.S. As it was explained to me, "Once you graduate from High School you become an 'Old Grad', and you become a member of the Vernonia Society if you have ever lived in Vernonia. So, basically, everyone is invited! More recent V.H.S. Alumni are urged to attend and begin making this an annual tradition that will be carried on for many years to come. Be sure to register so that you can receive a reminder post card each year.

The Classes of 1963 and 1964 will be holding a reunion at the Scout Cabin in Vernonia on Friday, August 1st at 4:00 PM Not only are the graduates of those classes invited, but anyone that attended high school with them is welcome. If anyone would like to attend they should contact Rita Ceballos-Violette, 503-590-5108 or louienrita@verizon.net .

The Class of 1968 has reserved the Scout Cabin for a reunion dinner on September 13th, and a potluck/picnic has been planned in the Pavilion at Anderson Park on September 14th. For more information please contact Mary-Ann Shaw at 503-429-8201 or email Sandy Welch at ron_sandy141@yahoo.com

If you would like your reunion information to be posted in Vernonia's Voice please contact Tammy Vanderzanden - trv5775@yahoo.com or 503-429-8485.

The Vernonia Project: Mapping Technology for the 21st Century

By Scott Laird

Ben Fousek has a vision. It's a vision in which, with the touch of a button on a keyboard, anyone anywhere could get information about Vernonia from a single web-site. Information about specific properties, about shopping and restaurants, about public access spots on the Nehalem River, about current weather, about river levels—information about almost anything you could possibly imagine. And with the use of Geographic Information System (GIS), that vision could soon be a reality.

Fousek is the creative force behind an idea he has named "The Vernonia Project." A geography student at the University of Oregon, Fousek works as a Survey Tech for K.L.S. Surveying in Vernonia. Fousek took classes in GIS while at the U of O and sees tremendous possibilities and potential uses for this new technology.

"The whole world is using GIS, and I would like to help find uses for it here in Vernonia," said Fousek during a recent demonstration for Vernonia's Voice.

So what exactly is this all about? Do a Google search for "The Vernonia Project," and you will quickly arrive at the web site Fousek has set up to help explain and familiarize community members with his vision. The Mission Statement reads: "To provide Vernonia with a GIS and online mapping to help us better understand the geospatial relationships that exist here and employ that understanding to make Vernonia a better place to live, work and play. And to create interest in GIS and its potential for positive change right here in the community of Vernonia."

The site is loaded with information about GIS, about possible uses, about Ben Fousek, and about current ideas that are in the works.

Fousek envisions a website where Vernonia community members could create maps and data bases with information for just about any business, interest or hobby. The databases would become permanent records of valuable information. "As an example, let's say someone wanted to map all the old historic trees in the Vernonia area," explained Fousek. "You could have a map identifying locations and a data base that listed the species, age, property owner, and any other pertinent information about each location. That is just one basic example of a way someone in the community might use this technology."

Maps and information can be overlaid and combined thus creating access to information, trends in data, relationships between places, and possible uses not yet imagined.

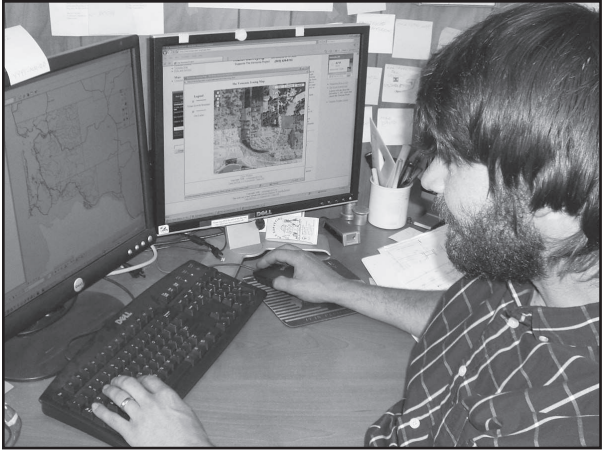
Fousek can see many valuable and practical uses. He is already looking at how to provide local weather information. "Real Estate Agents could show a potential buyer the location of a property, its distance to schools and other services, what kinds of permits or other projects have been requested and granted, whether the property is in the flood plain, zoning, and tax rates. It would be very valuable for the city to create a system that could be used by public works, by utilities, for city planning, for parks. The possibilities are endless."

Fousek says that "The Vernonia Project" would be "need driven," meaning as someone develops a use, it could be created on the web site. Fousek is willing to help people get started and work with them to develop their ideas and their system. He is also wiling to host the website. But hosting the web site is an expense as is software. "I am hoping to find sponsors or users who can help cover the expense of a dedicated host site to provide a platform for the project. It can also be very tedious to enter all the data that goes with a project. I won't be able to do this all by myself."

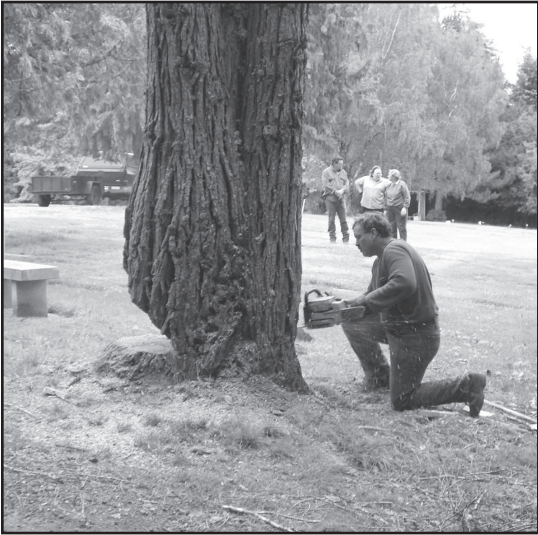
Fousek hopes to aim the project towards local youth. "GIS classes are being required for more and more college students," said Fousek. "Every field of study is finding ways to use GIS. My hope is that some of our high school students might choose to use GIS for their senior project and have a chance to see the possibilities."

Fousek thinks GIS and "The Vernonia Project" could be used to promote Vernonia for business recruitment and development information. It could be used as a way to answer questions through queries that ask for specific information. It could be used by fire districts, school districts, for tax lot information--even to list the best fishing spots on the river. Like Ben Fousek said, the possibilities are endless. And, hopefully, soon a reality.

The Vernonia Project website is www.vernoniaproject.org You can reach Ben at ben.f@vernoniaproject.org.



Local Tree Trimmer Assists City



The owner of All Star Tree Services, Ron Dodge, along with a volunteer crew, stepped up and donated their time, labor and expertise to assist with the removal of a dead cedar tree at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery in July. Dodge was asked by the City Cemetery Committee to give a bid for the removal of the tree but chose instead to make a donation of his services. Thank you Ron Dodge and all the other volunteers who showed up to help for being good citizens and helping Vernonia!

Rummage Sale

Jazzercise Rummage Sale Fundraiser

August 1, 9am - 5pm
August 2, 9am - 4pm

Vernonia Middle School Cafeteria
249 Bridge Street

Annabelle

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