

Vernonia Community Volleyball

Vernonia is now holding Adult Community Volleyball. Join your friends and neighbors for competitive, coed volleyball at the Washington Grade School gym from 7:00 to 9:30 PM every Friday evening. No small children please. For details, contact Teresa Williams at 503-799-3424, or by email at fitnessbytw@netzero.com.

Band Car Wash

The Vernonia Middle and High School Bands will be holding a car wash every second Saturday, (August 14, Sept. 11) from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM in the District Office parking lot. Donations appreciated. All proceeds go to band events, festivals and instrument repairs.

Vernonia Ridge Riders Schedule of Events

July 24th – Team Penning Practice, sign up at 9AM, starts at 10AM, (Free BBQ at this event)
 Aug 7th – Triple Crown, sign up at 2PM, starts at 3PM
 Aug 8th – Jamboree Horse Show, sign up at 8AM, starts at 9AM; (To be eligible for the High Point Buckle, you must have participated in at least 2 of the above events, excluding the poker ride).
 Aug 28th – Play Day, sign up at 9AM, starts at 10AM, Also Jack Pot Barrels at this event.
 Sept 18th – Team Penning, sign up at 1PM, starts at 2PM.

Camping is available, contact Deloris Bellingham at 503-895-0553 for more information. At all events, dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, riding boots are required, riding helmets are recommended but not required and please no stallions.

Events at Stub Stewart State Park

If there are two programs in a day, Junior Ranger programs are listed first, Family Campground programs second

7/13: Incredible Insects (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am)

7/14: Talkin' Trash with JR Beaver (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am)
 7/15: Signs of Wildlife (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am); Eyewitness Reptile (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 9pm)
 7/16: Junior Ranger's Leave No Trace (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am); Leave No Trace (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 9pm)
 7/17: Saturday's at Stub: Building a Park (Hilltop Day-use Area, 10am); OMSI Star Party Lunar Viewing (Hilltop Day-use Area, 9pm)
 7/18: Newts are Neat (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am); Eyewitness Amphibian (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 9pm)
 7/19: Slugs, Bugs and Other Ughs (Stub Stewart Welcome Center, 10am)
 7/20: Treasure Hunt (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am)
 7/21: Incredible Insects (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am); Wonderful Watersheds (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 7pm)
 7/22: Where Does JR Beaver Live? (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am); The Silent Invasion (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 9pm)
 7/23: Junior Ranger's Leave No Trace (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am); Leave No Trace (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 9pm)
 7/24: Cowboy Day - Co-sponsored by the Friends of Stub Stewart State Park and Banks-Vernonia Rails to Trails, includes a treasure hunt for hikers, bikers and equestrians for prizes (\$6 entry fee), dancing horses, square dancing demonstration, real cowboys, and more. Begins at Hilltop Day-use Area at 8am for treasure hunt, other activities and booths open until 3pm.
 7/24: Leave No Trace (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 9pm)
 7/25: Incredible Insects (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am); Tall Trees (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 9pm)
 7/26: Signs of Wildlife (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am)
 7/27: Newts are Neat (Dairy Creek Amphitheater, 10am)

Upcoming Events

Live Music at Birkenfeld Store, Thursday July 22 Lock, Stock and Barrel, (no music on July 23, 24 due to Run 21) July 31 Bolt Upright, August 7 Lynn Conover Band, August 14 T-Birds

Open Air Market, Every Friday, 5-7:30 PM--at the VCLC Courtyard. Local Vendors selling fresh produce, breads, crafts, coffee and more.

Bike Skills Park Work Weekend, July 17 & 18, 9:00 AM--Join professional trail builders and other volunteers to work on cleaning up the jump park and trails and constructing new stunt features. Bring work gloves and hand tools. Follow signs from Vernonia Lake parking area. Contact Scott Laird 503-367-0098 for more info. Lunch for volunteers and tent camping at Anderson Park for out of town volunteers provided by Vernonia's Voice.

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Meeting, July 22, 6 PM-- at the Vernonia Grange Hall 375 North Street. Steering Committee meets at 6:00 PM followed at 7:00 PM by a public presentation by Steve Trask of Bio-Surveys on the findings of the Rapid Bio-Assesment of juvenile salmon presence in the Upper Nehalem watershed during the summer of 2009 stream surveys. Call UNWC 503-429-0869 if you need more information.

Vernonia Friendship Jamboree, August 6-8--Join your friends, neighbors and family for this 54th annual celebration of everything Vernonia. Live Music, Car Show, Parade, Food, and much, much more. For current information on schedule of events go to: www.vernoniachamber.org/community/events.

Bear Creek Run, August 14, 8:00 AM-- 10K and 5K Run and Walk to benefit Vernonia Cares Food Bank. Starts at Anderson Park. To register go to <http://www.signmeup.com/66420>.

Texan Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, August 14, 6:00 PM--A Vernonia Lions Club Fundraiser at the New Hong Kong Restaurant.

Vernonia's Biggest Class Reunion, August 15, 10AM-5 PM--In place of the Old Timers Picnic plan to attend the Biggest Reunion Ever! A Benefit for Vernonia's new schools. anyone who has ever attended any of Vernonia's schools (or knows someone who did!) is invited. Held on the current school grounds--tours of the old buildings and the new school site, prizes, entertainment, food and fun. RSVP at VernoniaReunion@yahoo.com. More info at www.VernoniaClassmates.com or the Alumni & Friends of Vernonia Schools Facebook Page.

INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to provide funding to Columbia County for the Vernonia K-12 School Project (Project). Funding would be provided by the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Reform Act (42 U.S.C. 4101).

The Vernonia School District, Columbia County, and the City of Vernonia give notice of the intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Vernonia K-12 School Project (Project). This public notice is issued in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management; and Executive Order 11990, Wetlands Protection.

Columbia County has applied for FMA grant funding from FEMA to help fund the Vernonia K-12 School Project in Vernonia; with matching funds provided by the Vernonia School District 47J. The purpose of the project is to reduce repetitive flood losses at the existing K-12 school and to replace the existing elementary, middle, and high schools outside of the 500-year floodplain. The project is needed in order to provide for the safety of students, staff, and the community and to alleviate repeated losses due to flooding at the current location. The proposed action includes the demolition of the existing school buildings, construction of the new school, roadway improvements to Bridge Street and Missouri Avenue, removal of federal protection under Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act from Spencer Park, development of a new park to replace Spencer Park, and construction of a compensatory wetland mitigation project. The latter two elements are under the jurisdictions of the U.S. National Park Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers respectively. FEMA is the lead agency under NEPA for the combined actions.

The project site (existing school and replacement park) is located in or affects the floodplain of the Nehalem River and Rock Creek, Upper Nehalem River Watershed (1710020201 5th Field Hydrologic Unit Code). Wetlands are present across the proposed new school site and would be affected by construction. The proposed action has the potential to affect a historic property. The Washington Grade School is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and under the proposed action, would be demolished.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will issue a separate public notice as part of a Section 404 Clean Water Act permit currently under review for the proposed project.

Comments concerning the proposed action, alternatives, and preliminary identification of environmental issues; will be accepted from the affected public; local, state and federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to scope the EA and inform decision-making. Comments should be made in writing, sent to the applicant contact listed below. Comments must be received prior to August 20, 2010 to be considered.

An informal open house will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Vernonia High School Cafeteria (299 Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon).

Additional information about the project, including a project area map, conceptual design, and scoping report, can be obtained from the Vernonia Schools Project Website (www.vernoniaschools.org), at the School District Office (475 Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon), from the applicant contact below, or during the public open house on July 28, 2010. Documents will be available on July 23, 2010.

Responsible Official: Science Kilner Deputy Regional Environmental Officer FEMA Region 10 130 228th St SW Bothell, WA 98021-9796 Science.kilner@dhs.gov (425) 487-4613 fax	Applicant Contact: Christy McDonough PBS Engineering + Environmental 4412 SW Corbett Avenue Portland, OR 97239 Vernonia@pbsenv.com (866) 727-0140 fax
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Readers Lend Their Voices...

To The Editor:

As most of you have probably heard our city is in a financial pinch, with all departments making deep cuts, one of those is the library.

We are fortunate to have such a great facility and a librarian and staff dedicated to providing so many services, such as a book discussion group, pre-school story hour, the summer reading program, after school crafts, adult and children movies, guest programs, and free internet use.

The library budget was cut over \$4,000 dollars, \$1,000 of that is for purchasing new books.

I would like to encourage all library patrons to donate towards a fund to ensure the purchasing of new books. If you read as many books as my husband and I, you know how much money you save by using the library.

If you are not a user of our library, preferring to buy your books, I invite you to support our local library. I have been using the library for 56 years and always find something to my liking.

If you have books you no longer have any use for, please donate them to the Friends Of The Library for their annual book sale in August.

I'm sure if we all pitch in we can easily make up that \$1,000 dollars or more.

If you wish to donate, please make your checks to the Friends Of The Library, that money will then go directly to the library fund.

We will be making the first donation and hopefully many of you will do the same, and make our goal a reality.

DeLoris Webb
Vernonia

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters, space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email to: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.