

# Vernonia City News...

## At the July 5, 2011 Vernonia City Council Meeting

**Harrison Appointed to VCLC Committee**—At the request of the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC) Committee, Sally Harrison was appointed to the committee by Mayor Josette Mitchell.

**DADS Recycling Update**—Council received a memo from City Planner Carole Connell explaining that a Land Use permit and Conditional Use permit obtained by DADS Recycling have expired. According to the memo, the Planning Commission has granted two extensions for permits at DADS new site on Mist Drive, and stated in their last action that there would be no more extensions. DADS has completed its highway access approach and had it approved by ODOT.

According to Connell other conditions of their permit have not been met, including their driveway, fence gate and storage containers. Roger Lindsley represented DADS at the meeting and stated that the rest of the conditions could be met soon and asked for consideration. Council recommended DADS provide a timeline for completion of the work and go back to the Planning Commission.

**Council Approves Solid Waste Rates**—Council approved a rate increase for City of Vernonia customers from Waste Management for collection rates. Columbia County approved an increase of disposal costs at the transfer station, leading to Waste Management requesting to pass those increases on to their customers. Customers will see an approximately 1% increase in their bills.

**Council Approves Use of FMA Funds for School Property**—Council approved two concurrent motions: one which recommended that the Columbia County Board of Commissioners use available Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) funds to purchase the approximate twenty acres of current Vernonia School property currently located in a special flood hazard zone; and the second which stated that the City of Vernonia accept this property as permanent green space to be maintained in perpetuity. The land purchase and exchange is all part of a previously agreed upon MOU between the City, School District and County.

**Council Approves Contract for GIS Services**—Council approved a contract between the City and Sean Pickner for GIS consulting services. The contract is

not to exceed \$25,000. Pickner worked on the City GIS project last year under a one-year contract. The contract contains a specific scope of work and Pickner will report to the City Administrator.

**Council Approves Contract Amendment with City Attorney**—Council approved an amendment to the contract with City Attorney Alexandra E. Sosnkowski. The amendment simply changes the name of the firm and adds Ruben Cleaveland as assistant and back up counsel.

**Council Holds Executive Session**—Council entered into Executive Session under ORS 192.6602(d), to meet with persons designated to conduct labor negotiations. No decision was announced after Council returned from Executive Session.

## On the Shelves: What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

**Book Donations Wanted**—Just a reminder, the Friends of the Vernonia Library are seeking donations for their annual Book Sale. Donations can be made during library hours. Please no textbooks, encyclopedias or Readers Digest Condensed Books!

**Juggle Mania Comes to Vernonia**—The Oregon College Savings Plan has partnered with the Oregon State Library and the Oregon Library Association on "Destination College Savings," a statewide campaign designed to promote Oregon public libraries' summer reading program. As part of its sponsorship, the Oregon College Savings Plan is underwriting a series of free special performances in libraries in communities with a population of

10,000 or less to engage and motivate young readers, while helping these smaller libraries drive traffic and encourage summer reading.

On Wednesday July 13 at 6:30 PM, juggler Rhys Thomas will bring his Juggle Mania show to the Vernonia Public Library at 701 Weed Ave. Juggle Mania is described as hilarity and dexterity in the form of comedy juggling and circus tricks. Over the last 20 years, Juggle Mania has appeared to laughter and applause on cruise ships in the Mediterranean, at festivals in Japan, by dogsled in Alaska, and at schools and libraries in America. Thomas also teaches physics via circus tricks at

museums across North America, as well as in Trinidad and Singapore.

"Destination College Savings" kicked off June 1 in public libraries across the state and continues through Sept. 6. Last year, more than 165,000 children and teens statewide participated in the summer reading programs offered throughout Oregon, reading more than 1.6 million pages.

Participation in "Destination College Savings" is easy. Oregon parents (or legal guardians) first enroll their children in the 2011 Summer Reading Program at their local public library, then fill out a postage-paid entry card, available at the library, and drop it in the mail, or enter online at Oregon College Savings.com. All entries must be postmarked by Sept. 2 and received by Sept. 6. Visit Oregon College Savings.com for official rules and prize details. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited.



Rhys Thomas will bring his Juggle Mania show to the Vernonia Public Library July 13 at 6:30 PM.

## New Welcome Sign Installed

By Sally Harrison

The Vernonia Economic Development (VED) Committee, in conjunction with some "special angels" installed a beautiful new Welcome Sign on the corner of Bridge Street and Rose Avenue on June 29, 2011.

The Committee spent considerable time and energy considering the many options for the improvement of the sign.

Shirlee Daughtry provided the historic photo of Engine #105 dumping logs into the Mill Pond. Doren Lower, the Graphic Arts instructor at Vernonia High School composed the fabulous layout and design.

The VED Committee passed the hat among its members to start the ball rolling for the fund raising. Then came a generous donation by both Vernonia Pride and the Vernonia Lions Club—so much appreciated in these hard economic times. When the Committee was running out of options to raise the remaining funds, Eleanor Thompson brought out her checkbook to make up the considerable difference. The sign was installed by Bud Dow and Tim Bero.

Everyone who conceived the idea and donated labor and funds to bring this sign to Vernonia hope the citizens and visitors enjoy the beauty and historic significance of this new sign that greets everyone at the south entrance into town.

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