

# Vernonia City News...

## At the August 1, 2011 Vernonia City Council Meeting:

**Council Approves Changed Ground Lease for Airport**—Council approved a change in language to the Ground Lease at the Airport for Mike Hartzell. The changes allow Hartzell to carry lower insurance coverage than the State of Oregon tort claim cap.

**Council Approves Planning Process for New Spencer Park**—Council approved the details to begin addressing the creation of the New Spencer Park on the school grounds, as well as a Tot Lot near the new school site. The school property is now owned by the City of Vernonia and is being leased by the School District. The School District

is responsible for development of replacement fields that were lost when the new school construction was started.

The planning process calls for the creation of an Executive Planning Committee which will help the School District with planning the deconstruction/demolition of the current school buildings and the creation of the new park. A Spencer Park Advisory Committee will also be established to include key community users and other City Representatives. A Town Hall is also being planned to gather community input about other potential uses for the park space.

Deconstruction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2012 and subsequent park construction will occur

following.

**Council Approves ODOT IGA for Right-of-Way**—Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Department of Transportation for ODOT to act as the city's agent and provide Right-of-Way acquisition services for the construction that will occur at the intersection of Highway 47 and Missouri Avenue and for the reconstruction of the length of Missouri Avenue that will serve the new school complex.

**Council Hears Update on Wetlands Mitigation Plan**—Council received an update from Steve Effros and School Superintendent Ken Cox on the school

Wetlands Mitigation Plan. The School District is required to replace wetlands lost during construction of the new school complex. According to Effros, construction of the new wetlands was scheduled to begin on Monday August 8. The new wetland will be approximately eight acres in size and will be located on the Mill Site next to Vernonia Lake.

**Council Approves Two Resolutions for School Property**—Council approved Resolution 20-11 which added the current school property into the City of Vernonia Park system. Council also approved Resolution 20-12 which amended the current City Parks Rules and Regulations, adding the current school property to those rules.

## Historic Oregon Newspapers Go Online

On Feb. 4, 1910, the headline across the Medford Mail Tribune's front page announced "United States At Mercy of Foreigners." The story, based on the Army's General's Staff report, warned that the Japanese could land 100,000 troops on the U.S. Pacific Coast in three weeks, and the Germans "a trained army of 200,000" on the east coast.

That's just one look-back-into-time experience to be pulled from more than 180,000 pages from 18 Oregon newspapers now available online through the University of Oregon newly launched website Historic Oregon Newspapers.

The website, made possible

through the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP), is the culmination of more than two years of work by program staff at the UO Libraries, in collaboration with the Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities and a number of state agencies and stakeholders.

The site provides unprecedented access to "first-draft" historical materials originally published by Oregon journalists between 1846 and 1922, program officials said.

"These primary source materials provide a unique window into the life of Oregon communities a century or more ago," said Jason Stone, ODNP project manager. "In their own voices, early Oregonians tell the story of the state's

industrial, agricultural and social development. We can revisit the ways that people in our state viewed and responded to major national and international news events of the day. There is also a great deal of information on topics such as race relations in early Oregon, the woman's suffrage movement, the pioneer days, Native peoples, urbanization, the emergence of environmental values ... the list goes on and on."

Historic Oregon Newspapers was created using open source software developed by the Library of Congress. UO programmers helped troubleshoot the code and were the first to implement it outside of the Library of Congress. A separate blog site provides project updates and examples of studies users might do, including June 1 entry focusing on "Hawaiians in Northwest History."

Content at Historic Oregon Newspapers is drawn from widely circulated titles like the Portland Oregonian and Salem Capital Journal, short-lived regional papers like the Sumpter Miner and Jacksonville Oregon Sentinel, and community-of-interest titles such as the first African-American paper in the state, the Portland New Age, and Abigail Scott Duniway's suffragist journal, the New Northwest.

While microfilm continues to be the preservation and archival medium of choice for newspapers,



This image of The Daily Astorian from 1889 can be found at <http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu>.

it has long presented serious issues of access and research value for the public. Comprehensive microfilm collections are often beyond the means of local libraries. And even when a copy of the film can be located, a researcher must spend hours, days, or even weeks scanning through the filmed pages, hoping to catch a glimpse of sought-after information.

Navigating the Historic Oregon Newspapers website will be simpler and more intuitive for most computer users. All the digitized newspaper pages have undergone a process of optical character recognition, in which bit-mapped texts on scanned page images are analyzed and converted to vector-based characters.

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## Board Position

The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Board of Directors is accepting applications for Board Director position #2. This term will run from July 2011 to June 30th, 2013. Interested parties residing in the fire district are invited to attend regular Board meetings and meet with Board President, Bill DeJager, to answer any questions concerning Board responsibilities. Any interested, qualified person wishing to serve the remainder of the term must mail a letter of intent by August 15, 2011. Please address the letter to Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD. Attention: Board President Bill DeJager, 12525 HWY 202, Mist, Oregon 97016.

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