

All Mayors Support Ballot Measure to Keep Prisoners in Jail

Every city mayor in Columbia County has endorsed the county-wide jail levy campaign. The levy, Measure 5-234, will be the only measure on the ballot during the special election this November. Commissioners referred the levy to the November ballot because lack of funds threaten to close the county jail altogether. Without passage of this levy, the jail is predicted to shut down completely in the near future.

More than 500 criminals have

been released this year because of funding restraints. Most local offenders that go to the jail are likely to only spend 1 or 2 nights there because of the cost.

“The punishment should fit the crime. Cite and release should not be tolerable,” claimed Mayor Cheryl Young of Columbia City when explaining why she was supportive of the levy.

The seven mayors supporting the jail levy are Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge, St. Helens Mayor Randy Peterson,

Vernonia Mayor Josette Mitchell, Prescott Mayor Lynette Oswald, Rainier Mayor Jerry Cole, Columbia City Mayor Cheryl Young, and Clatskanie Mayor Diane Pohl.

The mayors join in support with business leaders including, Trent Dolyniuk, Blackbird Catering owner and CEO Jeff Kemp of Pacific Stainless. State Senator Betsy Johnson, State Representative Brad Witt, Sheriff Jeff Dickerson and the Columbia County

Commissioners have also endorsed the campaign.

The measure calls for a 58-cent increase per thousand dollar assessed property value. It would raise the money needed for the deficit, funding the 100 worst local offenders to be maintained at the only jail in the county. The levy would last 4 years then would have to be re-approved by the voters. Election day is November 5, 2013.

St. Helens to Celebrate Fall with New Festival

Fun for the whole family is on tap at the new Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch to be held on October 12 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM and October 13 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Activities will be ongoing in the parking lot and gymnasium of St. Frederic’s church as well as surrounding properties. The church is located at 175 South 13th Street in St. Helens.

Besides a pumpkin patch to explore there will be horse and haywagon rides, a bounce house, food booths and artisan vendors. Indoors, there will be games, raffles and a silent auction. Items

include a vacation package in Seaside, a queen size quilt, a twilight airplane ride, a cord of wood and gift packages from local merchants.

Music will be supplied by Whispering Roses, the popular Get a Life Band and Treble in River City which played in the last presidential inauguration parade. AM1600 KOHI will be broadcasting live.

Admission is free; non perishable food donations for the St. Vincent DePaul pantry are encouraged.

The festival is presented by Oregon Hill Farms which has hosted the

well attended Pumpkin Festival on its grounds in the hills of St. Helens in the past. Community members working on establishing this new event look forward to broadening the sense of community in St. Helens and surrounding towns.



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Vernonia's Voice

Feral Cat Update

Kim Tierney has been working since July and has been able to spay and neuter 46 cats and kittens from Vernonia through the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. She currently has about 120 cats and kittens on the wait list to either trap and spay and neuter as stray or feral cats that are being cared for. The good news is that the Feral Cat Coalition is giving her more slots and she expects to spay and neuter 60 cats and kittens in October.

Tierney assists local Vernonians who are feeding feral cats by lending them live traps so they can catch the cats. Tierney then transports the cats to Portland where they receive medical attention and surgery so they will not reproduce any more. The cats are then returned to their caregivers who agree to continue to feed the cats.

“I want to thank those of you who have taken in stray and feral cats and kittens,” says Tierney about the project. “Please let me know if you would like assistance with spay and neutering. The caregivers I have worked with have been wonderful. There are also low cost options for spay and neuter if you are a pet owner and didn’t adopt a stray.”

Some people in Vernonia are still dumping cats and kittens. Not only is this illegal but it is cruel and it makes the local cat overpopulation problem much worse. There are alternatives to dumping unwanted cats and kittens. “Let’s get them fixed,” says Tierney. “We will work with you.”

Call Kim Tierney at 503-429-0720.

Vernonia Police Blotter - Sept. 16-29, 2013

Arrests/Criminal Citations

- September 16, 2013-Report of a Burglary in the 700 Block of Bridge St
- September 18, 2013-Arrest for Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest, Assault and Attempted Escape in the 700 Block of Jefferson Ave.
- September 19, 2013-Police received a report of a Felon in Possession of a Firearm in the 1300 block of Rose Ave. Firearm was seized and reported forwarded to the District Attorney’s office for review.
- September 20, 2013-Arrest in the 900 Block of Rose Ave. on an outstanding arrest warrant and transported to the Vernonia Justice Court and subsequently released.
- September 20, 2013-Police received a report of a theft in the 200 Block of A St. Ongoing Investigation..
- September 20, 2013-Arrest on Bridge St. near Jefferson Ave on an outstanding arrest warrant.
- September 23 2013-Police

- received a report of found “Drug Paraphernalia”. Property was taken for destruction.
- September 24, 2013-Arrest in the 1100 Block of 2nd Ave. on an outstanding arrest warrant.
 - September 25, 2013-Police received a report of theft in the 900 Block of 1st Ave. Ongoing Investigation.

Traffic/Other Violations

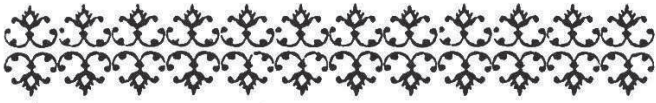
- September 21, 2013-Citations issued for Driving While Suspended/Uninsured on Bridge St. near Texas Ave.
- September 21, 2013-Citation issued for Violation of Speed Limit (50mph in a posted 35 zone).
- September 23, 2013-Citation issued for Driving While Suspended on Madison Ave. near Bridge St.
- September 29, 2013-Citation issued for Improper Display of Tags on Maple St. near Adams Ave.

For the complete Police Blotter go to:
<http://vpd.vernonia-or.gov/>

Halloween Parade

Thurs, October 31st
4:30 start at City Hall





Hello Friends & Neighbors,
I am writing to let you know that I am now located at a new address. Vernonia Realty 953 Bridge St. in Vernonia. I am a Real Estate Broker and I really like this office, as we have a group of friendly experienced professionals who work together as a team to meet the needs of both buyers and seller.

Vernonia Realty has been in business for over 50 years. I have had my license for 10 years and I am prepared to professionally help you meet all your real estate needs.

Come and see me, I would be delighted to answer any of your questions regarding real estate. You may contact me at Vernonia Realty's office or call 503-429-6203. I am looking forward to meeting with you.

Robin Murphy
Vernonia Realty
953 Bridge St.
Vernonia, Oregon 97064
503-429-6203



Community Health Assessment



As Oregonians, we’re expanding how we think about health to include how to keep it, not just how to get it back.

It’s time to give everyone a fair shot at good health, but first we need to hear from you—

Because good health starts in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our playgrounds and parks, and in the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Please take a few moments to tell us what you know about your community.

Please complete our paper survey or the electronic version available at www.colpachealth.org by October 15.

Paper surveys available at Public Health Offices, OHSU and Legacy clinics, Community Mental Health and Probation and Parole offices.