

Vernonia Man Dies in Shooting, Vernonia Man Arrested

A Vernonia man is dead after a shooting on March 26 and another Vernonia man is being held on murder charges following the incident.

At approximately 9:30 PM, law enforcement officers responded to the 900 block of Riverside Drive in Vernonia/Columbia County, Oregon regarding a report that a man had been shot. Responding agencies included the Vernonia Police Department, Scappoose Police Department, St. Helens Police Department, Oregon State Police, Rainier Police Department, and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

The Vernonia Police Department is the lead agency in the investigation. According to Vernonia Police Chief Mike Conner, upon arrival officers encountered Jesse E. Dupue, age 31, with life threatening injuries. Dupue was transported by ambulance to a St. Vincent Hospital where he was

pronounced dead.

Police have arrested Kirk Travis Avila, 51, of Vernonia, in connection with the shooting. Avila is currently being held in Columbia County Jail on \$65,000 bail and has been charged with Murder, First Degree Manslaughter, and Use of a Dangerous Weapon.

Conner confirmed that the alleged murder weapon is in police custody but declined to identify the make or model of the weapon. He said his department has been questioning neighbors, as well as three witnesses who were at the scene at the time of the incident, including the suspect's spouse. Conner said details of the investigation justified law enforcement officers executing a search warrant for the scene. Conner said investigators have several theories about what led to the shooting but declined to elaborate on what those might be.

Early Morning Fire Destroys Vernonia Apartment

A fire destroyed an apartment at the corner of A Street and Washington Avenue in Vernonia in the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 25.

Firefighters from the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, the Banks Fire District and the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District all responded and kept the blaze from spreading to nearby homes.

Neighbors reported hearing what sounded like a loud "explosion" around 2:30 AM. Witnesses said flames reached over thirty feet into the

air when the fire was fully engaged.

According to Vernonia Fire Chief Dean Smith, all occupants made it out of the home safely after waking up to heavy smoke in the structure. Investigators could not identify any working smoke detectors in the home. "Please make sure you have alarms outside of every sleeping space with battery testing twice a year as this allows early alerts to these emergency situations," said Smith.

Wauna Credit Union 48th Annual Meeting Report

Members and staff of Wauna Credit Union gathered March 10th at the Warrenton Community Center to celebrate the 48th Annual Meeting of the Credit Union. Robert Blumberg, CEO and President, and George Dunkel, Chair of the Board of Directors, addressed the membership.

Blumberg reported the following statistics as of December 31, 2014: Total Assets grew by 5.9% to \$170,833,145, Total Deposits increased by 6.5% to \$153,426,320, Total Loans increased 4.2% to \$128,857,391, Capital Ratio remained strong at 8.76% of Total Assets, and Total Membership increased by 8.2% to 20,200.

Dunkel announced results of the elections for the Board of Directors: The two incumbents, Christine Johnston (Scappoose) and Jennifer Teeter (Astoria) were reelected to three-year terms, as was newly elected to the Board, Robert Perry (Vernonia). Board officers have been announced: Marti Gwin (Clatskanie) was named Board Chair, Bill DeJager (Birkenfeld) was named 1st Vice Chair, Lester Kahr (Clatskanie) was named 2nd Vice Chair, Jennifer Teeter was named Financial Officer, and Christine Johnston was named Secretary. Other members of the Board include Erlene Darby (Clatskanie), George Dunkel (Scappoose), Amanda Lamb (Astoria) and Robert Perry. Debra Huffman, who chose not to run for reelection, was recognized during the Meeting for her service to the Board of Directors from 2008-2015.

The Wauna Credit Union 2014 Annual Report is available on the Credit Union website or at any branch. For more information please call toll-free 800-773-3236 or visit our Web site at waunafcu.org.

City Department Updates

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Vernonia Ridge Riders to finalize the City/VRR agreement for use of Anderson Park arena.

- Met with Mayor Parrow and VRR President Nathan Owen to formally sign Covenant Not To Sue and MOA Agreement with notary.
- Identified all Downtown Businesses effected by the damage the trees on Bridge Street are causing. Sent 32 business owners letter from City Administrator notifying them of April 6th, 2015 Council meeting where solutions will be presented to Council.
- Prepared staff reports for Council meeting April 6th, related to City Car Cost Analysis and City Hall lunch hour data.
- Developed RFB for timber harvesting and went over outline of plan with City Administrator.

- Discussed options for perimeter fencing at new Spencer Park with City Administrator.
- Assisted property owners in knowing floodplain restrictions and expectations.
- Worked with utility billing staff and GIS to streamline uploading and posting process.
- Worked with Scott Laird, Parks Committee Chair to move forward Parks Committee projects.
- Reorganized building and planning documents and function of permit system.

City Administrator

- City Administrator met with Nina Reed (Ticor Title Company) to sign all documents pertaining to all financial document relevant to the Vernonia Senior Center Building (446 Bridge Street): BUYER'S ESTIMATED SETTLEMENT STATEMENT, ADDITION AND/OR AMENDMENT TO ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS etc.
- City Administrator met with Larry Snethen (Lake Park Host) to discuss Lake park conditions and proposed improvements for incoming season. Last week the pump was started, and water has reached a good level in the lake. It is also anticipated that Fish and Wildlife will drop more fish either this weekend or earlier next week.
- City Administrator met with Councilor Tierney to discuss incoming meetings/projects. This has been (and is) a very beneficial weekly/biweekly meeting to discuss strategies, clarify Council intent/direction and identify potential solutions to outstanding issues.

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be out April 16th.

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Penny's Puppets
Wednesday, April 15, 6 pm
Puppet show for Pre-K – 5, "The Magic Book." Sponsored by the Friends of the Library in honor of National Library Week.

The Power of Play: Promoting Health and Creativity
Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 pm
A free conversation with Playworks, play activists, Jonathan Blasher and Tara Doherty. An Oregon Humanities Conversation Program hosted by the Friends of the Library and the Library Board.

Movie Nights at the Library
Thursday, April 9, 6 pm, Rated PG
Thursday, April 30, 6 pm, Rated PG-13
Relax with a movie and popcorn at the library. Call or visit the library for movie titles.

Ongoing Programs
Stamp Club
April 2
1st Thursday of each month, 4:30-5:30 pm
Open to all ages! Come join us for some stamp learning, collecting, trading, and all around fun!

Writer's Group – New!
Thursday, April 16, 6:00-7:30 pm
Opportunity for writers with all levels of experience to get together, write, and get feedback.

Book Group
April 27
Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm
Selection for April: TBA

Storytimes – New Schedule!
Baby and Toddler Time
Mondays, 10:30 – 11:00 am
Songs, rhymes, books, toys, and bubbles! For ages 0 – 3. Older siblings welcome.

Preschool Storytime
Fridays, 10:30 – 11:15 am
Stories and activities for children up to 5 years old.

Library Hours & Contact
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 - 5
Tuesday, Thursday: 1 - 7
Saturday: 10 - 4
Closed Sundays
Phone: 503 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov
701 Weed Avenue



Drive Thru Espresso & More

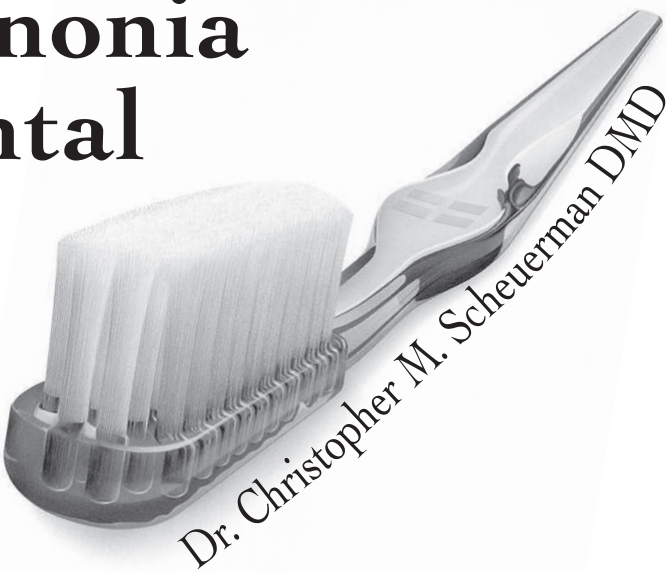
Route 26 Diner

\$1.00 off

Sunday Brunch

503- 324-0985
47700 NW Sunset Hwy, Banks

Vernonia Dental



Dr. Christopher M. Scheuerman DMD

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