

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

The family of Jim Johns would like to thank everyone for their kindness and love during Jim’s illness and recent passing. We can’t begin to tell each one of you how much it meant to us. Vernonia is a unique and special place and the outpouring of support proves that.

The family of Jim Johns

To all who love Vernonia,

Vernonia is so much more than a small town, it’s a way of life. The life that we all love is in danger of being ruined.

Did you know that OLNG is still fighting to put their pipeline through our area? It’s plotted to be about four miles upstream from the water in-take for Vernonia’s water supply. We pride ourselves on our water, but this pipeline is endangering it. Think about it for a minute... if the pipeline ruptured, leaked or whatever it would contaminate Rock Creek. Not just the water supply for the city, but the swimming pool, the salmon runs and all other forms of recreation on the creek.

You may think you’re not at risk if you don’t live on Rock Creek. You

couldn’t be more wrong. If something happens to our water, would everyone have to drill their own well? With risks like that what do you think it would do to property values? Vernonia could become a ghost town overnight. We survived two major floods, are you ready for another disaster?

What if the pipeline has a “problem” out in the woods, especially during the hot, dry summer. We have a wonderful, dedicated volunteer fire department, but they would be no match for an inferno like what would happen. OLNG has already stated they will not accept responsibility and it will be up to us to fight the fire. Get your hoses out folks because it will be a big one!

I love Vernonia and our way of life. If you do too, please go to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) meeting on September 22 at the School Commons from 6-9 pm. Make your voice heard. Together we can fight this!

Carol Davis
Vernonia

Dear Vernonia Community,

Welcome to another great year at Vernonia Schools. I would like to take a

minute of your time and let you know about the fundraisers we will be doing this school year. Your help and support for our school is greatly appreciated! There will be no collection bins. Please hand me the materials personally, give the materials to your child and they can hand it to me personally, or turn them into the school offices and someone will make sure I get the materials. You can also mail it in as well. If it is not on the list below, then it is not being collected anymore.

We are collecting the following for the 2015-2016 school year:

Box Tops Labels
Campbell Soup Labels (upc part)
Cell Phones & Ink Cartridges
Flav R Pac & Santiam Labels (upc part)
Capri Sun Drink Pouches
Writing Instruments (Paper Mate, Sharpie, & Expo, dry erase pens)
Colgate (toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, packaging)
Scotch Brand Tape (dispensers & cores)

All the money collected from fundraising/recycling this specific school year will be going towards elementary and high school physical education equipment.

If you have questions or are not quite sure what is the correct upc label or product, please don’t hesitate to call Vernonia Schools, or to stop by and talk to me in person.

I will send out periodic letters throughout the year about this, letting you all know what is still being collected or if something is not being collected anymore. Thanks to those who have

Upcoming Events

Columbia City Show & Shine - Saturday, September 19, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm at Columbia City School. All vehicles welcome. Pancake breakfast, book sale, quilt show, music, food and vendors. Benefits Columbia City Community Library. For more info contact Gordon at (503) 396-5658.

FERC Public Comment Meeting on Oregon LNG - Tuesday, September 22, 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Vernonia Schools Commons.

Salmon Festival - Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm at Hawkins Park. Pumkin carving, kids trout pond, scarecrow stuffing, artists, vendors, food, and more.

Timberbound Concert - Friday, October 9, 7:00 pm at the Grange. Evening starts with a presentation of Jenelle Wiggins’ photographs by Cory Colburn.

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: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Vernonia Weather August 2015

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	95	52	0
2	84	58	0
3	82	45	0
4	78	52	0
5	74	47	0
6	77	45	0
7	83	44	0
8	79	49	0
9	84	51	0
10	84	52	0
11	89	51	0
12	90	61	0
13	85	58	0
14	71	54	0
15	75	42	0
16	80	42	0
17	86	42	0
18	93	44	0
19	94	59	0
20	74	56	0
21	76	39	0
22	84	40	0
23	85	40	0
24	78	37	0
25	82	35	0
26	90	43	0
27	87	45	.08
28	77	55	.33
29	69	54	.24
30	73	52	T
31	70	56	0
Ave/Tot	81.5	48.4	0.65

Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant

NW Natural to Lower Rates

For the fifth time in seven years, NW Natural is requesting a rate reduction for Oregon customers. If approved by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC), residential customer rates will decrease by almost 7% starting November 1, 2015.

The filing calls for a 6.9% drop in residential rates and a 7.6% reduction for commercial customers. That means the typical residential customer using an average of 53 therms per month would pay about \$4.24 less, and the typical commercial customer would pay \$17.97 less per month.

The proposed rate reduction is in addition to the \$9.6 million bill credit that NW Natural passed back to Oregon customers in June, which was a result of efficient use of storage and pipeline facilities.

On September 15, NW Natural filed a proposed rate adjustment with the PUC which reflects lower projected natural gas commodity prices for the coming year, as well as other year-to-year adjustments and costs approved by regulators.

The primary factor in this year’s rate reduction is the decline

in wholesale gas prices thanks to an abundant domestic supply of natural gas. Also factored into this year’s rates are the costs of using additional storage capacity at NW Natural’s Mist Storage facility and recovery of environmental clean-up costs related to legacy manufactured gas plant operations.

Regulators will issue a final decision on rates by the end of October, with new rates effective November 1.

Find more information at nwnatural.com or call 503.226.4211 and ask for the Rates & Regulatory Department.

Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Poor Zeke was surrendered to the shelter because his owner had to move to a nursing home. This transition has been very hard on Zeke. He is very shy and is going to need a family that is willing to work with him and love him. Zeke is probably going to do best with a family that does not have any kids and who are willing to make an effort with him. Once he gets to know you and he trusts you he will make a great pet. His adoption fee is \$50. Please don’t hesitate to call and ask questions about him.

Web: www.columbiahumane.org
Phone: 503-397-4353
Email: animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org
2084 Oregon Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

Do You Need Help? Call for meeting times and locations

Columbia Community Mental
Health
Call 503-397-5211
-or- 1-800-294-5211
For after hours Crisis call:
1-866-866-1426
<http://www.ccmh1.com/crisis.html>

Narcotics Anonymous
NW Region 503-345-9839
<http://portlandna.com/>

Alcohol Anonymous
NW Region 503-366-0667
<http://www.pdxaa.com/>