

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

Thank you Vernonia community!

It's my pleasure to say many thanks to Vernonia community for showing so much generosity to host exchange students.

It's such an amazing thing to realize that hosting has become like your culture. You've changed the lives of many of the exchange students. All the exchange students this year had so much fun and we will live to remember Vernonia, though small but with great people.

If anybody would like to host an exchange student next year please do so because it's fun to host. You don't need to be rich to host an exchange student.

Thanks to those families who have already signed up to host. Many thanks to the school for providing all that we needed and especially participating in sports. Many thanks to the host parents and especially my host mum Jo Ann Beamish for being such an amazing mum and her beautiful family that always made sure my experience was life changing.

Thank you! Thank you! We love you Vernonia community!

James Ombati
Kisii, Kenya

To the Editor,

Vernonia High School Leadership class would like to extend our ap-

preciation to all the sponsors who made the 2016 Doernbecher Week so successful. Thanks to our sponsors R&S Market, La Cabana, Black Iron Grill, All In Pub, Blue House Café, True Value, Vernonia Florist, Meyers Auto Body, Napa Auto, and Creatures Pet Store, we could purchase needed supplies and gift certificates for our fundraisers.

Thanks to our sponsors and many donors during the week, we were able to raise \$ 1,266.69 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital! Students, staff, and community members participated in Doernbecher Dolly Head sales, bought sundaes at lunch, sacrificed their beards in Shave it or Save it, played games at a kids' event, and "bought" dates at a group lunch date auction.

Thank you again for all your support to help with this important cause for Doernbecher Kids!

VHS Leadership Class of 2015-2016

To the Editor,

This letter is in response to Brad Witt's article in the *Vernonia's Voice* dated 6/2/2016 which stated he is the chair for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, charged with suggesting ways to overcome the ODF&W's financial shortfall due to lack of License and Tag sales.

Brad, you know very well that Weyerhaeuser plays a significant role in this shortfall as studies have shown.

Weyerhaeuser's new policies of charging unfair and ridiculous fees for access have resulted in hunters not buying licenses and tags due to huge expenses incurred.

You said that the solution was "SIMPLE" as if everybody would agree because you said it. Let me say Brad, it is SIMPLE, In fact TOO SIMPLE. Your suggestion to begin charging 25% tax on Weyerhaeuser's permit sales would be the solution is poorly thought out. I think anyone but you would see that they would simply respond by just raising their fees 25%. Now they will SIMPLY sell permits for \$375 instead of \$300. Weyerhaeuser is NOT interested in those that can't afford it, they are interested in those that can. Your plan does nothing for anyone and it has no teeth what so ever.

How would your plan help sportsman and fishermen in Columbia County or for Oregon as a whole? It WON'T. How will it solve the loss of business and the closure of small businesses who rely on seasonal hunting income especially in places like Vernonia? It WON'T. How will it help address the access issue at all. It WON'T. Once again Brad, you're doing nothing to help us in Oregon and even more specifically for Columbia and Clatsop Counties.

You appear to be trying to make some effort but perhaps you should hear your own words. "Compensate hunters who no longer have access to the wild game, a public resource paid for by hunters, that Weyerhaeuser is profiting from." What?? How may I ask will hunters be compensated? Do we receive

Upcoming Events

Vernonia Ridgeriders Trail Ride - Saturday, June 25, 9:00 am. Starts at Anderson Park Arena; 3-4 hour L-2 ride. Water, camping, corrals, and concessions available. Contact Richard Meyer (503) 429-8033.

Blood Drive - Wednesday, June 29, 10:00 am-3:00 pm in the small gym of Vernonia Schools.

4th of July Celebration - Monday, July 4. Parade starts at 6:00 pm on Weed Avenue. Fireworks start at dusk at Greenman Field.

Your Event - Saturday, July 16, 4:00-8:00 pm at Hawkins Park. Youth and community BBQ, music, games and more.

money? Will we receive improved access? What exactly are you referring to?

Also if you refer to PNW's petition you will see that THIS IS THE BASIS FOR OUR ARGUMENT and you're repeating it. Great! This is a direct hit but your solution will do nothing at all. We (PNW) feel that BOTH of our initiatives would address this.

Regarding our tax solution, once again, we would draw your attention to our solution "B" within the petition where we address Timber Tax and eliminate reduced taxes, be it Property or Harvest Tax, and other benefits such as Tax Deferrals, and build in an incentive for allowing open access to lands.

We ALL realize that you have connections with Weyco and that you accept political contributions from them, but WE THE PEOPLE contribute a hell of a lot more to you and we should be the ones you're looking after, not your timber buddies. We see where you supposedly side with the people on timber issues, but your actions say the OPPOSITE. By the way, I don't think you provided a SOLUTION, it's simply what they should be doing, paying taxes. They should by law be paying taxes on revenue even if it is from access. So, it's my personal feeling Brad that you're just putting up a big smoke screen, hiding behind it and making it look like you're doing something when in reality it will be done anyway, with or without you.

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Introduction to Beekeeping Wednesday, June 22



6:30 pm to 8:30 pm



Held at the OSU Columbia County Extension Service office,
505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, OR.

This program is designed for anyone interested in learning how to raise bees and will cover basic honeybee management, tools and equipment, and potential problems. Class is free and open to the public. For more information, call (503) 397-3462.

Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Niner

Hi! My name is Niner and I am a Parson Russell Mix about 6 1/2 years old. I'm a 13 lb white and tan neutered male. I came to the shelter from California via Wings of Rescue. I have been in the shelter for 10 weeks and the staff and volunteers just don't understand why. I am a sweet guy and would probably do best in a home without little kids. I don't mind other dogs, but don't really want to be messed with either. Stop in and see me today.

Web: www.columbiahumane.org

Phone: 2084 Oregon Street
503-397-4353 St. Helens, OR 97051

Email: animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org

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 May 2016

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	80	39	0
2	85	53	0
3	70	47	T
4	60	47	T
5	69	39	0
6	80	41	0
7	82	48	0
8	58	43	0
9	68	32	0
10	77	35	0
11	84	35	0
12	80	35	0
13	86	37	.05
14	56	50	.20
15	57	49	.05
16	57	49	T
17	73	42	0
18	69	43	T
19	56	41	.08
20	65	47	T
21	58	43	0
22	65	43	T
23	67	47	.08
24	69	41	0
25	67	47	0
26	59	43	.05
27	61	39	T
28	68	43	0
29	66	34	0
30	75	34	0
31	88	39	0
Ave/Tot	69.5	42.1	.51

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



Friends of Stub Stewart State Park and Banks-Vernonia State Trail Monthly Meeting

June 23, 2016
7-8:30 pm

The Dairy Creek West
Meeting Hall
Stub Stewart State Park
30380 NW Hwy 47
Buxton, OR 97109

Interested public welcome
Steve Kruger, Park Ranger
503-324-0606 x223