

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

We have a great deal of respect and gratitude for three of the four City Council members, Tim and Heidi with the Parks Committee and several city employees. However: We feel that for some time now and still, the City of Vernonia discriminates against new businesses to protect the monopolies held by the few that currently exist. As I stated at the workshop, "I believe this is an ethics issue." Until our town is being run fairly for all, we will find another location for our ice cream concession trailer.

Richard and I intend to remain a part of this community and be actively involved in bringing forth the changes that are needed to help Vernonia thrive and provide opportunities to all its residents, not just a select few.

Please consider this letter as the formal withdrawal of our proposal. We have had four meetings with the City Administrator, attended four City Council meetings, one Parks Committee Meeting, and one City Council workshop. After more than six months we still have nothing concrete. We now fear how the bigger and more important issues of the City are being handled.

This would have been delivered in person at the City Council meeting on March 20. But with all things considered we are tired of being talked down to by one of your members and city employees. We do not feel that we need to subject ourselves to any more of their self-serving, condescending attitudes being projected at us.

David Sterner and Richard Traver
Vernonia

To the Editor,

Wholesale natural gas prices dropped from 3.30 to 2.85 dollars/million BTU last month, the largest single drop since 2015 Jan even as much of the country experienced lingering snow.

One reason - natural gas is being captured as a byproduct of ever more efficient oil fracking and creating an oversupply. Keep in mind even a 3% oversupply begins to back up storage

capacity as weeks turn into months.

The long term effect on residential users could be the Oregon PUC supporting another reduction in rates as happened in 2015 when the Northwest Natural Gas rates were lowered by 11%.

Wayne Mayo
Scappoose

To the Editor,

Missile defense should be a new priority for Senators Ron Wyden, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, and Jeff Merkley.

North Korea's bellicose comments coupled with their recent rocket engine tests have extended the radius of danger which according to reports in The Wall Street Journal now may include the west coast of America.

True or not, steps should be taken.

The mobile missile defense system known as 'Thaad' capable of intercepting and destroying incoming ICBM missiles has been deployed in Japan and South Korea recently. The effectiveness of this system is so advanced that China has registered adamant disapproval at what this defensive hardware does to the "threat equation."

The Chinese response to a purely defensive upgrade raises questions about their political intentions and just how big of a part they play in encouraging North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Thaad should be immediately dispatched on the west coast to protect Washington and Oregon starting with the high density population centers.

There is no question the American military would respond to any attack with devastating precision which under "normal" circumstances should be a powerful deterrent.

But North Korea's social construct doesn't reflect values or circumstances Americans would recognize as normal.

Wayne Mayo
Scappoose

Lawyer in the Law Library

A workshop on Divorce and Custody issues is scheduled to take place Wednesday, April 12 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Columbia County Law Library, located at 270 South First St. in St. Helens. The focus will be on custody, parenting plans and best interests of the child. Your questions will be welcome.

A local attorney will be the guest speaker. The workshop is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. No registration is required. The workshop marks the 4th in the "Lawyer in the Law Library" series being hosted by the law library.

For more information, contact Columbia County Law Librarian Pam Davis at (503) 396-5344 or at davis12000@aol.com.

Contra Dance in Astoria Featuring Hobe Kytr

Clatsop County Stringband will be playing April 14, 2017 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm for the 2nd Friday Contra dance at Astoria Arts and Movement Center. All dances taught. No partner or experience necessary.

The Astoria Arts and Movement Center is located at 342 10th Street Astoria, OR. Cost is on a sliding scale, \$5-\$10 – pay what you can.

Clatsop County Stringband members Knox Swanson, Larry Moore, Gina and Hobe Kytr and caller Dave Ambrose invite you to join them for an evening of great music, dancing, laughing, and good times. Knox and Larry are members of the Beerman Creek Stringband. Gina and Hobe formerly played in the Blue Heron Stringband with their good friend Ann Baldwin. All are looking forward to sharing their love of music and dancing with you.

Upcoming Events

Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Pancake Feed - Saturday, April 8, 8:00-11:00 am at the Mist-Birkenfeld Main Fire Station, 12525 Hwy 202, Mist.

Volunteer Fair - Wednesday, April 12, 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Vernonia Schools Lobby. Potential volunteers will have a chance to meet with current volunteers and hear about groups, histories, missions, and descriptions of jobs that need volunteers.

Vernonia Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 15 at Hawkins Park. Starts promptly at 10:00 am for kids 10 & under.

mEgga Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 15, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm at the Columbia County Fair Grounds. Egg Hunt begins promptly at 11:00 am. Five age groups for kids 12 & under, Special Needs hunt is available for youth ages 15 & under. 4-H petty zoo, 4-H dog demo, robotics demo, face painting, horse rides by Col. Co. Rodeo Court, coloring contest, and more. FREE

Earth Day Vernonia Library Clean Up Event - Saturday, April 22. If interested in volunteering, contact Shannon Romtvedt at the library or email shannonr@vernonia-or.gov.

Kindergarten Round-up - Thursday, May 4 at the Vernonia Schools. Please call for an appointment, (503) 429-1333.

P.E.O. Spring Tea - Saturday, May 6, 1:00 pm at the Cabin in Vernonia. Entertainment, light lunch, raffle, and more! See page 9 for more information.

Volunteer Open House at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park April 8

The Friends of the Stub Stewart State Park & Banks-Vernonia Rails to Trails are holding an open house on April 8, 2017, from 10 am to 2 pm to let you know about their volunteer opportunities available at the L.L. Stub Stewart State Park and Banks-Vernonia State Trail.

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for those who love the outdoors and particularly the L.L. Stub Stewart State Park and Banks-Vernonia State Trail. You can volunteer a few hours a month or more often if you like. Volunteer opportunities include just about anything you might be interested in, from greeting and talking with visitors, telling them about your love of the flora and fauna in the park, helping with students coming on field trips or giving some of your time to perform trail work, leading hikes or trail rides. For anyone who prefers working indoors, there are volunteer opportunities in the Discovery Depot Interpretive Center & Store. Besides greeting visitors, there is doing inventory, stocking or ordering products, or administrative tasks like helping with social media, bookkeeping or IT assistance to the Friends Group.

As you can see, just about any

interest you have can become your volunteer activity. Come and visit with us, share your interests at the open house at the L.L. Stub Stewart State Park located at 30380 NW Hwy 47, Buxton OR on April 8 in the Welcome Center's Discovery Depot Interpretive Center between 10 am and 2 pm. Parking is free at the Welcome Center that day. We look forward to meeting and signing you up for these fun, interesting, and valuable volunteer opportunities.

More information can be found at www.StubStewartFriends.Org or on our Facebook page.

The Friends of Stub Stewart State Park and Banks-Vernonia Rails to Trails began in 1991 with a handful of neighbors who wanted to preserve an old abandon railroad line and make it a scenic trail for use by hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. It became the first Rails to Trails project in the state of Oregon, the Banks-Vernonia State Trail. As Oregon State Parks decided to build the state's first State Park in 20 years, L.L. Stub Stewart State Park, the friends and neighbors embraced the project and became the Friends Group for both parks.

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.

Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Calhoun is a Shepherd mix that is approximately 6 years old and 87 pounds. He is a very sensitive guy and can take time to warm up to people and other dogs. New situations can be scary to him, so he'll need an owner that understands how to make him feel safe. He does enjoy playing with other dogs but no kitties please!

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