

Columbia County's Big Eddy Park Closes Temporarily

Removal of rotting, dead trees will make park and camp areas safer, brighter

Columbia County's Big Eddy Park near Vernonia will be closed from May 14 to 22 for tree removal.

Casey Garret, General Services Director, said about 14 large dead or rotting trees located throughout the park have a high probability of falling on surrounding structures, campsites and trails. "These are hazard trees and need to be removed for safety and liability reasons," he said.

The 8.5-acre park is located seven miles north of Vernonia off State Hwy. 47 and along the Nehalem River. With RV hook ups, tent camping, walking trails and river access, Big Eddy is one of the county's most popular areas.

"This will be a big improvement for the park aesthetically," said Garret. "Campers not only will be safer, but they'll also have more sunlight during the day and star gazing opportunities at night."

There's another big benefit for the county and its residents. Local logger Archie Dass has volunteered to remove the trees at no cost as a service to the community. "We received a quote for about \$5,000 from another company to fall the trees, and that included no clean-up," Garret said. "Archie's support and expertise are a blessing, and I can't

express how grateful we are for his help."

Some of the wood from the trees will be split and sold to campers and chipped for use on trails. Excess wood may go to local non-profit organizations to be distributed to families in need.

Park managers say Big Eddy, which also offers a boat launch for kayaking, canoeing and fishing, hot showers, and a camp host during the summer, is busiest from Memorial Day through Labor Day.



"We're sorry for having to close the entire park during this time," Garret said, "but our next closest parks will be open for those who might be inconvenienced."

Garret said Camp Wilkerson, about five miles away is another wooded, rural park, though it has no RV hookups. The closest full-service county park is Hudson-Parcher Park on Larson Road, in Rainier, about 40 minutes away.

Where in the World?

Congratulations to Donna Webb, who was one of several people that submitted a correct guess for the photo in our April 6 issue. Donna named the logger carving in front of the Vernonia Pioneer Museum, was randomly picked from all the correct guesses, and will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Mariolino's restaurant.



Here is this month's challenge. Send us your guess of what this is and where in the world it is located and you could be the winner of a \$10 gift certificate to All In Pub.

Send your entries, along with how to best contact you to: Scott@VernoniasVoice.com or Where in the World PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064 by May 31st. Best of Luck!



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