

## Jamboree to Skip Logging Show This Year

*Jamboree Committee already planning to bring it back next year*

This year's version of the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree will not include an important event.

The Logging Show, an attendee favorite usually held on Sunday afternoon, has been cancelled this year due to a lack of volunteers to organize the event.

"We are not having a Logging Show this year because events like this take people and right now we do not have the people to make that happen," said Nicole Penney, the Jamboree Committee Chair this year. "It was a very difficult decision. I spent many nights trying to figure out a way to make it happen, but in the end we just could not find the volunteers to do it."

Organizing and putting on the Jamboree is a complex effort. A team of community volunteers works year round to plan and implement the event, with volunteers coming and going each year as they are able to participate.

"This is a restructuring year for Jamboree and the Logging Show," said Penney. "We have a lot of great names on board to help us make the 2018 Logging Show amazing and better than ever, and I can't wait to see what happens next year."

This is Penney's first year serving as the Chair. Previously she had worked helping organizing a kids zone and assisting the vendor coordinator.

"The people on the Jamboree Committee are doing the absolute best that they can," said Penney. "There are a lot of us losing sleep over making

this a success. There were some people who were upset that we didn't announce the Logging Show cancellation earlier, but we were still trying to make it work and still trying to put something together."

Organizing the Logging Show takes a special group of volunteers that have technical knowledge, equipment and access to resources.

"The Committee reached out to as many people as we could, looking for volunteers for the Jamboree, as well as knowledgeable people in the logging industry to help organize the Logging Show," said Penney. "If you're just a lay person who doesn't know anything about logging, it's pretty hard to put it together. We needed people who actually know what they're doing and have the contacts necessary to

put on a good show."

While the Logging Show will be missed this year, Vernonia's Friendship Jamboree will still go on. Scheduled events include the Parade, a Rat Rod Car Show, Motorcycle Show, Library Book Sale, Lawn Mower Races, and the Ridge Riders Horse Gaming. A family concert is being planned for Sunday afternoon in Hawkins Park to fill in the empty space left by the cancellation of the Logging Show.

"We know that on the Committee we could have done some things differently this year," said Penney. "This has been a learning year for all of us. Next year, with all the knowledge we've obtained this



year, we should be able to make the entire experience of Jamboree better than it's been in the past few years. We've had a lot of people step forward since we postponed the Logging Show and it's great to see so many people who care about the Logging Show and really want to make it happen."

## County Commissioners to Hear Public Comment on Port Westward Expansion

*Port of St. Helens resubmits proposal after remand from Land Use Board of Appeals*

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners is hosting a public hearing on rezoning 786 acres of agricultural land at Port Westward to industrial uses. The hearing will take place Wednesday, August 2 at 6 pm at the Clatskanie High School Auditorium, 471 SW Belair Dr. in Clatskanie.

The hearing will focus on a modified application originally submitted in 2012 by the Port of St. Helens and the Thompson family on land they own at Port Westward. The original proposal to the County Board of Commissioners included zoning 957 acres to

a Rural Industrial Planned District (RIPD) and amending the county's Comprehensive Plan to reflect the changes. The RIPD zone allows a broad spectrum of industrial uses. The change requires an exception to Oregon Land Use Goal 3, which is intended to preserve and maintain agricultural lands for farm use consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest and open space.

The Port Westward Industrial area currently hosts three tenants. Clatskanie People's Utility District has a three-acre electrical substation. Global Partners LLC owns Columbia Pacific Bio-Refinery ethanol production and also exports crude oil on 43 acres. PGE's Beaver Power Plant and two other natural gas power generation plants take up the remainder of the approximately 900 acre area.

The Board voted to approve the zone change for 837 acres in January 2014 and to amend the county's Comprehensive Plan. The approval contained 15 conditions for which an applicant wanting to site an industrial use must meet before the proposed development could be approved.

After the County Board's unanimous decision, appeals were filed with the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) by local mint farmer and business owner Mike Seeley and Columbia Riverkeeper. Their appeal listed ten grounds on which they contended the county erred in its decision.

After reviewing the appeal, LUBA agreed with the appellants on four of the ten errors, and remanded the decision to the county. The appeal board determined that the county did not supply sufficient evidence to analyze and explain why current land at Port Westward as well as other industrial zoned areas can't accommodate new rural industrial uses. LUBA also suggested the county narrow

## Oregon's First Farm Conservation Program Passes Legislature

On July 7, 2017 the Oregon House and Senate passed a landmark bill launching a new farm and ranch land protection program for the state. HB 3249 will create the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, Oregon's first voluntary program to help farmers and ranchers conserve working lands and the fish and wildlife habitat they support.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program bill (OAHP) was developed during a two-year effort by the following six statewide organizations that represent agriculture and natural resource conservation: Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, Sustainable Northwest, and The Nature Conservancy.

"The diverse groups and bi-partisan support that rallied behind HB 3249 really speaks to the importance of Oregon's agricultural heritage for all Oregonians," said Representative Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie). "We have to decide whether we want to preserve those lands and their ecological benefits, or to allow them to be fragmented and sold off in a way that harms the agricultural and conservation purposes of these lands."

The program addresses key issues farmers and ranchers face in Oregon: the conversion and fragmentation of farmland and the challenge of planning for

the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

"The family farms and ranches in Oregon are something we have to preserve," said Representative Knute Buehler (R-Bend) one of the chief cosponsors of the bill. "And they are under assault by two big factors: first, the ever-growing crush of urbanism, and the second is a lack of succession planning. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program helps to address both of these issues by providing voluntary tools for landowners."

In passing the OAHP, the legislature provided \$190,000 over the next biennium to set up rules for the program and establish the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to administer future program funds. In conjunction with the Commission, the program will be managed by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to provide grants to landowners to protect their working lands, enhance natural resource values, and assist with succession planning.

"Oregon's working lands are not only a critical economic driver for the state, but those who work the land also steward important fish and wildlife habitat," said Representative Brian Clem (D-Salem), another chief cosponsor of the bill. "I am pleased that the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program recognizes the vital contribution of both to our state."

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