

2nd Annual “Catch the Holiday Spirit” Campaign Launches November 17

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tracked \$26,000 spent at local businesses. It's easy to get involved and make a difference.

Here's how everyone can “Catch the Holiday Spirit” across Columbia County:

Shoppers:

- Word of mouth: It works! Tell your neighbor. Talk up your community.
- Get social: Follow our @KeepitlocalColumbiaCounty FB page. Share and comment. Post on your personal page showing where you shop and why you love local!
- Tag post with #keepitlocalcc
- Get active: Participate in the Catch the Spirit Campaign by shopping locally across the county November 17 - December 27. Find participating businesses at keepitlocalcc.com/campaigns. Fill up your Spirit Card, and return it to be entered

in the prize drawing (a minimum of 3 prizes worth \$50 each will be awarded in each community, and one for the county overall)! Attend the open houses on November 18 and participate in Small Business Saturday on November 25. We have our first Columbia County Small Business Expo on November 25, 2017 from 10-4 at Meriwether Place, 1070 Columbia Blvd, St. Helens to Celebrate Small Business Saturday! Stop by to meet many of your local businesses and celebrate #shopsmall with your community.

To learn more and get involved, contact Keep It Local Columbia County: Natasha Parvey, Director www.keepitlocalcc.com keepitlocalcc@gmail.com Phone (503) 498-1699 or Cell (850) 377-7867

Campground, Trails Closed at Stub Stewart State Park *continued from front page*

around the campgrounds, disc golf course, and mountain bike trails, as well as along the five miles of the 21-mile Banks-Vernonia State Trail that crosses through the park.

The Banks-Vernonia Trail between the Buxton and Tophill Trailheads will be open weekends only in January. It will remain open during the other project months.

The most popular areas of Stub Stewart, including the campgrounds, cabins, Hilltop Day-use Area, trails, and disc golf course, will be closed completely in January. Park areas

will be closed at times during the other project months. Closures are subject to change based on weather and flying conditions. Watch for closure signs on the ground and get the latest closure information at www.oregonstateparks.org.

Helicopters will operate during daylight hours Monday through Friday. Nearby residents should expect some noise during that time.

“Our goal is to cause as little disturbance as possible for the residents whose homes border the park and for visitors who enjoy using the trail and the park in winter,” Morris said.

Seeking Nominations for Columbia River Fishery Advisory Groups *continued from page 12*

Manager for Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Fisheries. “We’re looking for candidates who are interested in filling that role.”

Up to 20 candidates (combined) from Oregon and Washington will be chosen for each advisory group, which together represent most aspects of the fishing industry in the Columbia River, Jones said.

Any group or individual may submit a nomination. Nominations for new advisors should include the following information: A resume with contact information and a statement that describes the nominee’s fishing experience, interest in serving on the committee and ability

to communicate with regional constituents. Current members may re-apply by contacting staff and expressing interest in serving an additional term.

Nominations can be submitted by mail to John North, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 17330 SE Evelyn St. Clackamas, OR 97015, by FAX at (971) 673-6072, or by email to john.a.north@state.or.us.

For more information, please contact John North at (971) 673-6029, Tucker Jones at (971) 673-6067, or visit ODFW’s Columbia River Fisheries Management page online.

School Board Report *continued from page 13*

students to access curriculum, resources, and teaching assistance. Miller said the District would receive state funding for students enrolled in the program, which would pay for the program. Board member Stacy Pelster, a former virtual academy instructor, has been working to establish the program. According to Miller and Pelster numerous homeschool families have been enrolled in a virtual academy through the Yamhill/Carlton District and have expressed interest in accessing a similar program through the Vernonia School District.

Board Approves Surplus Equipment – The Board approved the declaration of a spotlight as surplus, which the District will attempt to sell.

Board Approves Policy Updates – The Board approved recommended policy updates for: Evaluation of Superintendent, Local Wellness Policy, Staff/Student/Parent Relations, and Whistleblower.

Public Comment – Josette Mitchell

addressed the Board on behalf of the City of Vernonia and said that according to the lease agreement between the City and the School District for the use of Greenman Field, the School District is responsible for the maintenance of the bleachers. The bleachers were not used this past football season because the bleachers were deemed unsafe by an engineer due to a sagging roof support. Mitchell said the City Council and Parks Committee met in a joint workshop to discuss the future of the bleachers and that it is unlikely the City will invest the estimated \$15,000 to temporarily secure the bleacher roof or spend funds to permanently repair the structure. Mitchell suggested the School Board consider how much longer they will use the field and whether the best use of limited funding would be to install security fencing to protect both the District and the City against liability until the District has constructed their new field. Mitchell suggested there is interest in a community effort to raise funds to construct a cover over the new bleacher area at the new field. Board Chair Brett Costley

said the issue would be placed on a future agenda for the Board to discuss.

Susan Ely told the Board that after reading in *Vernonia's Voice* that several staff members had testified on behalf of Gene Baska at his sentencing for sexual abuse of several minors, she would like to see the District do some community outreach and explain and clarify the steps they take to protect children and how reports of child abuse are reported, as a way to reaffirm the District’s dedication to children.

Mike Spry suggested that the District and schools do something to recognize and honor military veterans and teach respect for the flag.

Student Reports – Emma Neuffer and Sky Williams provided a detailed update on the Middle School activities, including curriculum in classes, fall sports, fundraising for the Close-up trip, an in-school workshop with presenter Orly Wahba about kindness, projects leadership students are doing to help in the library and to collect recycling, and the Halloween dance.

Brook Naron, Public Relations Officer for the High School student body, updated the Board on Homecoming Week activities, the Oregon Association of Student Councils leadership conference, fall sports, the most recent blood drive, and the Project Based Learning class which had a new Logger logo installed on the gym floor and is finishing a mural outside the sports entrance.

Building Reports – Elementary Principal Aaron Miller provided a written report which updated the Run For the Arts program and a mural that will be installed, upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences scheduled for November 16-17, Wednesday morning assemblies, RTI (Response To Intervention and instruction) training for staff, and the Sprouts Fall Carnival.

High School Principal Nate Underwood provided a written report which included Oregon Department of Education report cards which indicates students are attaining average academic achievement, participation, and growth.


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