

Council to Make Decision About Trees *continued from front page*

in the stand in “good” condition. He rated 27 trees as “fair” which indicates trees, “... in a state of decline.” The report states, “... once tree decline starts it is difficult to remove/remedy all aspects of the tree decline.” The report rated 10 trees in “poor” condition, which indicates, “... structural problems that make it difficult if not impractical to save the tree. Removal is usually recommended.” The report identified three trees as “dead.”

When Council discussed the report on January 16 there were only three Council members present, one of which was Councilor Jill Hult, who stated a conflict of interest and abstained from voting due to having family members who live in the vicinity of the trees being discussed. Council approved the remov-

al of four dangerous tress, but decided to wait for more of the Council to be present to discuss the rest of the stand.

During their February 5 discussion Councilor Bruce McNair, a professional logger, noted that he believed the entire stand is suffering from pelinus, a type of tree root rot. “These trees are not in very good condition, and they’re only going to get worse.” said McNair. “Pelinus eats away at the roots and it travels from one tree to the next. The only way to get rid of it is to clear-cut the whole stand.”

City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council that the cost to further inspect the trees may be an issue for the City. Mitchell said the cost is \$300 per hour and that trees could be inspected at one-to-three per hour.

With timber prices at historically high rates, Council is considering whether there is value in harvesting the trees for lumber. McNair said that if the trees are left as they are the rot will eventually spread into the trunk of the trees, “... and that log will be no good; it’s only good for pulp. The longer they’re left the more that rot will become prevalent. Eventually you’ll get to the point that that stand isn’t going to have any value, on top of the fact that it’s dangerous,” explained McNair.

In addition to talking about harvesting the diseased trees, Council also discussed the idea of clear-cutting more timber from O-A Hill, adjusting the boundary of Ora Bolmeier Park, and selling some of the property for development. Council then voted to table the

decision on how to manage the stand of trees until their February 20 meeting and also agreed to schedule a workshop for March 12 at 6:00 pm to discuss the future of the entire area that includes the rest of Ora Bolmeier Park.

“From a logger’s point of view the question is, ‘Can we get some value from these trees?’ And if we can, then we should go in there and get it now,” said McNair. “But not everyone sees things the way I do. And I’m not here to just represent me and Mike Pihl and a few other guys that work in the woods. There are other people in this town that don’t see things that way. They see the aesthetic value of those trees outweighing the value of the timber.”

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

The Friends of the Vernonia Library, on behalf of the Vernonia Library, has recently been awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC). The CCCC offers a grant opportunity annually for local non-profits and government entities, in the amount of \$500-\$2,000. Last year the Vernonia Library was awarded a grant for the Get Rhythm at the Library project, which brought a musical performer and a percussionist to the Library as well as a two day music workshop at the school followed by a performance at the Vernonia Grange.

Our current project relates to our collection of digitized newspapers (*Vernonia Eagle*, *Vernonia News Weekly*, *Vernonia Freedom*, and *The Independent*). The Museum and Library’s print and microfilm collection of newspapers was digitized back in 2011 with a Meyer Memorial Trust Grant. The goal of the Vernonia Newspaper Project is to begin the process of making this collection widely accessible by having it searchable and browseable online.

With initial grant monies, Library staff and volunteers are working with the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program to put more recent papers on the Historic Oregon Newspapers site <https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>. This will include *The Independent* from 2003-2012. We are also working with *Vernonia’s Voice* to include all editions of the paper, 2007 – current.

Once the first collection of papers is on the Historic Oregon Newspapers site, fundraising will begin to include the entire collection, beginning with early 1920s and 30s editions of the *Vernonia Eagle*. I will be scheduling local presentations to interested groups, to give an explanation of the project and a tour of the website once the first papers are available. Please contact the Library if your group or organization would be interested in

a presentation. At this point, there is no firm date on having the first wave of papers on the site, but the expectation is to have them available before this summer.

The Friends of the Library 2018 CCCC Grant for the Vernonia Newspaper Project was made possible through local matching funds and volunteer time. Thank you to R&S Market, Cedar Ridge Retreat Center, *Vernonia’s Voice*, the Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association, Fall Creek Woodworking, and other generous individual donors in the community.

More information is to come as our project progresses. If you are interested in donating, the Friends of the Vernonia Library is accepting donations at the Library and at Wauna Credit Union (write checks to the Friends of the Library Vernonia Newspaper Project). Thank you in advance for your support!

Upcoming Events

Animal Friends Storytime - Lizards!

Wednesday, February 21, 11 am
Stories with a special animal visitor. Karen Peters will be bringing in her lizard friends to visit. Simple craft to follow. For young children and families.

Movie Night

Tuesday, February 20, 6 - 8 pm
Featuring: *Broken Treaties*, *An Oregon Experience* (PBS). Relax and enjoy a movie and free popcorn.

Puppetry Class Presents:

Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses

Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 pm *
Students from the Library’s K-5 weekly puppetry class have been working towards a special performance. Bring your young children and families for a special short puppet show, followed by refreshments.

*Date tentative and will be confirmed ASAP depending on readiness of the show.

4th Annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

Thursday, March 1, 6:30 pm
Special visitor “The Cat in the Hat,” reading *Green Eggs and Ham*, followed by birthday cake, pictures with the Cat, craft and activity stations, scavenger hunt, and Seussish prize bags for all participants. Sponsored by the Friends of the Vernonia Library.

Ongoing Programs

Kids Book Group

Friday, March 9, 4:30 - 5:30 pm
Selection for March: *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. For kids and families. Reading level and grade level interest of titles will vary, ranging from grades 3 - 6. If interested in the book group and would like to be on the contact list, call or visit the library (503) 429-1818 or email shannonnr@vernonia-or.gov.

Knitting Group

Saturday, February 17, 10 am – Noon
For knitters with all levels of experience. You’re welcome to bring your own materials or project. If you need materials or have questions, contact Caitlin at boylandknitworks@gmail.com.

Writer’s Group

Thursday, February 15, 6 - 7:30 pm
3rd Thursday of every month. For writers with all levels of experience. Meetings for February and March will be at the Fire Department Meeting room.

Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. Discussion for February 26: *Don’t Skip Out On Me* by Willy Vlautin

Storytimes

Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Songs, rhymes, books, toys, and bubbles! For ages 0 - 3. Older siblings welcome.

Family Storytime

Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:15 pm
in February and March
Stories and a craft. Planned for

families with pre-schoolers but older and younger children welcome.

No Friday 10:30 am storytimes in February and March. They will resume in April.

Did You Know?

In addition to a digitized collection of local newspapers, the Library has a collection of the *Vernonia Eagle*, bound in annual volumes. Library staff would be happy to bring out individual volumes to be read in the Library.

Featured Titles: Recent Librarian Favorites

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate – Story of a neighborhood from the perspective of “Red” a beloved Oak Tree. For Elementary age and up.

The Book of Dust by Philip Pullman – Prequel to *The Golden Compass* fantasy series. For teens and adults.

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck – Post World War II Germany, the story of three women connected to the Nazi resistance movement. Great book for discussion.

Snow and Rose by Emily Winfield Martin – Portland author, fairytale retelling with beautiful illustrations. For upper elementary age and up.

In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende – Human rights scholar, undocumented immigrant from Guatemala, and a Chilean lecturer as their lives intertwine. Set in present day Brooklyn and 1970s Chile and Brazil.

Library Closures

Monday, February 19
for Presidents’ Day

Hours & Contact Info

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 5 pm
Tues & Thurs 1 pm - 7pm
Sat 10 am - 4 pm
Closed Sundays

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E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov