

## Become a Citizen Scientist: Join Oregon Season Tracker

From the February fake-out to the February freeze, no doubt the weather is something we've all been watching lately. Daffodils covered in snow, trees beginning to flower only to have the temperatures plunge.

Do you enjoy keeping track of the weather, and how plants respond to it? Then consider becoming an Oregon Season Tracker citizen science volunteer, and make your observations count. Oregon Season Tracker (OST) is an OSU Extension program that connects local community volunteers with OSU researchers studying weather and ecology. OST volunteers collect local data on rainfall, snowfall, and native plant seasonal changes from their backyards, farms, woodlands, or schoolyards. They report their data online, join-

ing thousands of other observers across the country. The data then becomes accessible to weather forecasters, scientists, ecologists, emergency managers, and others in Oregon and beyond.

Help produce the science that we use every day! Sign up for the OST program. First, you will take an on-line training on your own time, which takes about 2-3 hours to complete. Then, you'll attend our classroom session at the Vernonia Library on March 20, 6:00-8:00 pm, for skill building and Q&A. The training costs \$40, and includes the program-approved rain gauge. To sign up, call the OSU Extension office at (503) 397-3462. Learn more about OST at <http://oregonseasontracker.forestry.oregonstate.edu>.

## Upcoming Events

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration - Thursday, March 1, 6:30 pm at the Vernonia Library. Visit from The Cat in the Hat, birthday cake, pictures, craft/activity, scavenger hunt, and goodie bags. (503) 429-1818

Vernonia's Got Talent - Friday, March 9, 6:00 pm at Vernonia Schools Commons. Featuring Lovey James! \$5 entry fee includes slice of pizza and soda.

Columbia County Small Woodlands Tree Sale - Saturday, March 10, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm at Lawrence Oil Pacific Pride on Hwy 30 in St. Helens. (503)

397-5997

Father & Daughter Country Ball - Saturday, March 10, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Grace Family Fellowship, 957 State Avenue. \$5 per couple.

St. Patrick's Day Parade - Saturday, March 17, 1:30 pm starts at the corner of Bridge St. and State Ave. All are welcome.

TOPS Group (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meet Fridays at the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Dept. 8:30 am weigh in, 9:00 am meeting. Men and women invited to join. (503) 429-7505

## Oregon State Parks Designates New Scenic Bikeway in Central Oregon

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (ORPD) and Travel Oregon announced that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission approved the designation of the Crooked River Canyon Scenic Bikeway. The bikeway is rated at moderate difficulty and stretches 18 scenic miles between Prineville and Big Bend Campground.

Riders begin the 37 mile out-and-back journey in the historic community of Prineville. The bikeway follows the Crooked River south out of town, giving riders picturesque views of the surrounding llama farms and cattle ranches.

The route leaves the pastures behind as it enters the Crooked River Canyon. The road slips through the canyon's towering basalt cliffs, gently

curving and climbing to a scenic view near Palisades Campground before descending back toward the river. Riders will pedal by Chimney Rock Recreation Site, a popular picnicking spot and fun place to watch local anglers fly fish in the Crooked River.

The final stretch of the Crooked River Scenic Bikeway continues through the canyon and passes by several other day-use sites and campgrounds. Observant riders might spot resident wildlife like deer, great blue herons, and golden eagles. The bikeway ends at Big Bend Campground, which has parking, restrooms, water, and power.

The ride is best enjoyed during the spring and fall when seasonal colors are vibrant. Most of the day-use sites along the route have restrooms; two have water to refill any empty bottles. The bikeway can also be ridden on clear winter days, rewarding intrepid cyclists with brisk blue-sky rides through the quiet landscape.

The Oregon Scenic Bikeways program features a curated collection of cycling routes that inspire people to experience Oregon's natural beauty and cultural heritage by bicycle. Launched in 2009, the program is a partnership between Cycle Oregon, Travel Oregon, Oregon Department of Transportation, and ORPD. It is the first and only program of its kind in the United States.

Scenic Bikeway routes are nominated by local community groups and are designated by ORPD based on scenic quality, road conditions, and general riding enjoyment. Newly designated routes are developed by a partnership between ORPD, community groups, and local government.

OPRD and Travel Oregon host information online for riders to plan their trip at [RideOregonRide.com/CrookedRiver](http://RideOregonRide.com/CrookedRiver). Resources include printable ride maps, elevation profiles, GPS data, services, and points of interest.

**TREE SALE**  
RAIN OR SHINE

**Saturday**  
**March 10**  
**8:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
Pacific Pride -  
(Lawrence Oil)  
Hwy 30, St. Helens

COLUMBIA COUNTY  
SMALL  
WOODLANDS  
ASSOCIATION

22 different species of deciduous & conifer trees and shrubs available. Douglas fir, red cedar, dawn redwood, magnolia, red flowering current and 17 others. 1,000s of seedlings available. Prices from \$1.50 - \$6. Arrive early for best selection.

Proceeds support best management forestry practices in Columbia County

Questions:  
or (503) 397-5997

## Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Hi! My name is Bosco. I am a neutered male Shepherd mix. I am black and tan, weigh about 52 lbs., and am about 3 years old. I get along well with other dogs, but I can sometimes be a bit much when I am meeting them. I am very trainable and have had a lot of training in my time. My previous family said that I do well with kids, however I do not do well with cats. You should call the shelter and talk to them about me.

In the best interest of the pets in our care CHS does not have their kennels open to the public. CHS is committed to making

sure that both our pets are successful and our adopters are successful. If you are interested in adopting a shelter pet, please don't hesitate to call 503-397-4353 or email [animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org](mailto:animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org).

2084 Oregon Street, St. Helens, OR 97051 Phone: 503-397-4353  
E-mail: [info@columbiahumane.org](mailto:info@columbiahumane.org) Web: [www.columbiahumane.org](http://www.columbiahumane.org)



## Vernonia Community Annual FATHER & DAUGHTER COUNTRY BALL

Dads dust off your best country duds and daughters dress up like the princesses you are and come for a fun filled, magical, memory making evening of dancing. There will be sweets for the sweeties and drinks as well as crafts tables, and more.

**When:** Saturday, March 10, 2018  
6 to 8 pm

**Where:** Grace Family Fellowship (Big Gym)  
957 State Avenue, Vernonia

**Cost:** \$5 Per couple

**For more information contact:**

Jon Nelson 503-602-0615

Rose Nelson 503-602-0616

Visit our Facebook page: [Fatherdaughtercountryball](https://www.facebook.com/Fatherdaughtercountryball)

This dance was created so that our little, or maybe not so little anymore, girls can celebrate for one night with the most important man in their lives, whether it is Dad, Grandpa, or any significant male.

There will be  
games and a  
raffle for prizes

Dads & Daughters  
of all ages  
are welcome

### 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](mailto:scott@vernoniasvoice.com) or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue on March 15.

## AA Meetings

**Open Meetings**  
Mondays & Thursdays  
6:30-7:30 pm  
Vernonia Christian Church  
410 North Street

**Women's Meeting**  
Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 pm  
Vernonia Christian Church  
410 North Street