

## “Save the Grandstands” Project Moves Forward

*Community group presents plan to City Council*

The local effort by community members to repair and restore the historic grandstands at Greenman Field took another big step forward when the group presented their Business Plan to the Ver-

was deemed unsafe. The City Council voted to demolish the grandstands after they determined the cost to repair them and make them structurally safe was prohibitive.

A group of interested citizens organized and asked the Council to delay the demolition and allow them the



nonia City Council on May 21, 2018.

Stacey Pelster, Rachel Organ, and Janice McGuire represented the group of citizens that have come together to renovate the grandstands and generate revenue to maintain them in the future.

The grandstands were part of the Vernonia School campus and served as a covered seating for high school football games and other school activities. Following the flood of 2007 and the relocation of the school campus, Greenman Field became the property of the City of Vernonia, who has leased the sports fields back to the Vernonia School District. The School District is currently in the process of constructing new sports facilities at their new campus and will no longer have need of sports fields at the old campus, now called Spencer Park.

Last year the City closed the use of the Greenman Field Grandstands after it was discovered that the roof trusses were failing and the structure

opportunity to find a way to save the grandstands. The Council suggested the group form a nonprofit to operate and maintain the facility and gave the group until the end of the fiscal year to show progress in developing a realistic proposal.

The Business Plan presented to the Council states the mission of the group is “...to restore, preserve, and maintain the Greenman Field Grandstands, and to provide event opportunities not only for locals to experience, but also to generate new potential revenue in Vernonia, while at the same time contributing to the history and promoting the community heritage of unity.”

The proposal identifies a fiscal partnership with the Intercultural Society of Vernonia (formerly the Chamber of Commerce) to achieve nonprofit status. The group said they intend to raise the funds needed to restore the grandstands through donations and business support.

The Business Plan included a

## Spencer Park Memorial Trees Get Planted

*Citizens can still purchase trees from the City*

The City of Vernonia has planted 20 new trees at Spencer Park. The trees are being funded by donations from the community and are purchased as Memorial Trees.

a member of the Vernonia Parks Committee, who wanted the park to include some shade trees and places for people to sit and enjoy the open space.

The City purchased three varieties of trees - Valley Forge Elm, Sun Valley Maple, and Pacific Sunset Maple - which were chosen for the



10 trees have already been purchased and 10 more are available. The trees were planted around the new picnic shelter, the playground, and the ball field. 10 trees line what will eventually be a paved pathway, linking the parking/picnic shelter area with the snack shack and a future paved picnic plaza.

The idea for the Memorial Trees was initiated by Steve Whiteman,

varied colors they offer in the fall.

City Administrator Josette Mitchell said the City will be purchasing and installing plaques for each Memorial Tree.

If you are interested in learning more about the Spencer Park Memorial Tree project, please contact City Hall at (503) 429-5291.

proposed budget for restorations and repair of \$121,500.

Ongoing maintenance and operations will be funded through revenue from organized events and vendor fees. The possibility of a business sponsor with naming rights was also proposed, with interest being expressed by Peterson CAT, Sportsman’s Warehouse and Parr Lumber.

According to the group, poten-

tial events include high school homecoming and alumni games, local sports tournaments, Jamboree events, concerts, running events, and the possibility of bringing an event related to the Pacific Northwest Sportsman Show to Vernonia.

The Business Plan calls for the creation of excess revenue beyond the costs of maintenance that would help fund the construction of a new grand-

*continued on page 15*

## Dates Change for Beaver Creek Bridge Closure

*Full road closure on Highway 47 will begin on August 6*

The 60-day closure to replace the Beaver Creek Bridge on OR 47 south of Vernonia is now slated to start on August 6 to accommodate the town’s biggest event, the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show on August 3-5.

The contractor working for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was originally scheduled to replace the bridge starting on July 9. The shifting of the start date to August 6 ensures that the closure will not affect travel during Vernonia’s biggest event on the first weekend in August.

To accomplish the work, a full 24-7 closure of OR 47 is still planned from August 6 to early October with local access maintained and a detour using Timber Road. The bridge is located

between Vernonia and Staley’s Junction (U.S. 26 and OR 47) at milepost 70.

The Beaver Creek Bridge is an old, narrow bridge that is in poor condition and in need of frequent repairs. The plan now is to remove the old bridge starting on August 6 and reconstruct a new one in its place. The newly constructed bridge is expected to be ready for traffic on October 1. The work includes:

- Constructing a work isolation area and removing the existing bridge
- Constructing pile foundations, abutments and bridge super structure
- Installing drainage and storm water facilities, and paving
- Installing a retaining wall

Local access will be maintained from McDonald Road south to the bridge site and from Johnson Road north to the site. A detour for thru traffic is Columbia County’s Timber Road

that connects OR 47 (at milepost 64.5) with U.S. 26 (at milepost 38). ODOT is working with Columbia and Washington counties to get the road ready for the detour.

Some work on the project has already been completed including clearing and tree removal from around the bridge and work site. There may be additional work required prior to the full closure which may include single lane closures, flagging of traffic, and some minor delays. Variable message signs placed along OR 47 and U.S. 26 will be used to warn travelers of any traffic control changes and delays caused by construction.

For the latest information on the project, please visit <http://www.oregon.gov/odot/projects/pages/project-details.aspx?project=17522>.

*inside*

6 vernonia sk8 park

8 the end of an era

9 vhs graduation tribute

