

## Upcoming Events

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Joint July/August Board Meeting - Thursday, August 2, 5:30 pm at the UNWC office, 1201 Texas Ave.

2018 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree & Logging Show - Friday, August 3 - Sunday, August 5

Senior Picnic - Friday, August 17, 11:00 am, 12:00 lunch at Anderson Park. Bring a side dish. Hamburgers, hotdogs, beverages provided.

Bear Creek Run - Saturday, August 18, 9:00 am start at Anderson Park. Register at [www.RunSignUp.com](http://www.RunSignUp.com).

West Oregon Electric Co-op Annual Meeting - Saturday, August 18, 11:00 am at the Vernonia Schools Commons.

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

### 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 Weather June 2018

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	68	42	0
2	80	47	0
3	65	42	0
4	66	38	.03
5	70	36	0
6	76	47	0
7	68	45	0
8	60	44	T
9	59	40	.08
10	55	44	.24
11	70	39	0
12	77	39	0
13	65	50	T
14	62	46	0
15	68	48	0
16	76	44	0
17	87	43	0
18	84	53	0
19	88	49	0
20	90	56	0
21	74	55	0
22	74	54	T
23	73	46	0
24	89	50	.10
25	67	46	.02
26	73	40	0
27	72	40	0
28	71	41	0
29	75	41	0
30	73	52	0

Ave/Tot 72.5 45.2 0.47

Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant

## Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

Ladies and Gentlemen, friends and neighbors, I find no joy in writing this letter, but I also feel you have a right to know.

In 1998 the then Board tried to expand W.O.E.C. territory. An honorable endeavor though ill fated. PGE paid W.O.E.C. \$2,000,000 in reparation. Yeah!

Now the dark odyssey begins. The Board and management decided they would try to invest in a for-profit business. Being a non-profit, W.O.E.C. can't legally do that. So they had a meeting of the members to get a vote. If I remember right about 200 came of the 4,000 members. They then received a majority of those attending to invest in a for-profit company.

West Oregon Services was born. Why it then became Columbia Broadband is unknown to me.

During an Oregon Co-op meeting, a gentleman from Central Oregon Co-op said, "There's a company called Washington Noah Net, a broadband that is making money hand over fist!" After much discussion, I assume, they decided that an Oregon Noah Net was the thing to do. They decided that W.O.E.C. i.e. West Oregon Services, i.e. Columbia Broadband would invest \$1.5 million and co-sign a bank note for \$13 mil-

lion. Things went well until the third banknote payment was due.

What had happen was, another PUD, specifically P.G.E., had their own broadband and undercut Oregon Noah Net. Noah Net couldn't make their payment. At a meeting with the bank, Noah Net proposed they pay X amount on the dollar and save the bank from having to sue them and maybe not getting anything. A deal was struck.

Noah Net was still in financial trouble. The Board put their heads together and came up with a plan.

1. Scrap the name Oregon Noah Net off the door.
2. Change hats.
3. Become Light Speed Inc. taking all of Noah Nets assets and customers but none of its liabilities.
4. For the past 10 years or so, W.O.E.C., i.e. West Oregon Services, i.e. Columbia Broadband, was given a 12% stock in Light Speed Inc. There have been no dividends of consequence returned.

Also Vernonia doesn't have broadband as promised.

Apparently there is no way to recoup any of our investment according to all the discussion I've had with the Board

Robert VanNatta is on the

Board of Light Speed. Standard practices for W.O.E.C. has been to pay \$150 + mileage for meeting attendance. Recently, Light Speed decided to pay its Board members \$1,500 for each meeting. W.O.E.C. Board decided that VanNatta could keep the \$1,500 and they would forgo the \$150. You decide.

The official debt load number that I've been able to get is \$19,570,747 including the \$1,351,341 still owed on the headquarters building. There's talk of taking out an additional loan of \$8+ million

There was also mention of priority information. We aren't suppose to know.

The Oregon Noah Net debacle was made and decided by a different manager and mostly a different Board. The only one I know was on the bBard at that time was Robert VanNatta.

The debt will keep rising. Being debt free is not an option.

Our rates will continue to go up. The same complaints will be voiced.

The same excuses will be given.

Sally Harrison  
Vernonia

## Get Ready for Jamboree and Logging Show!

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show will take place August 3-5 this year.

The Jamboree Committee has released a schedule of events, including the big news that the Logging Show will return to Hawkins Park on Sunday after a one year hiatus.

Once again the parade will take place on Saturday at 11:00 am and there will be a Car Show, Motorcycle Show, and Lawn Mower Races. The Ridge Riders Horse Gaming competition will take place starting Sunday morning.

The Kids Zone will be hosted by the Vernonia SK8 Park group and will include bouncy houses, reptile petting zoo, an obstacle course, sno cones, raffles for skate gear, and a skate demonstration by UNHEARD Skateboarding on Saturday. All proceeds go to support Vernonia SK8 and Vernonia's new skate park.

The Library Book Sale will be held at the Vernonia Grange this year. Vendors will be located on Adams Avenue and at Spencer Park.

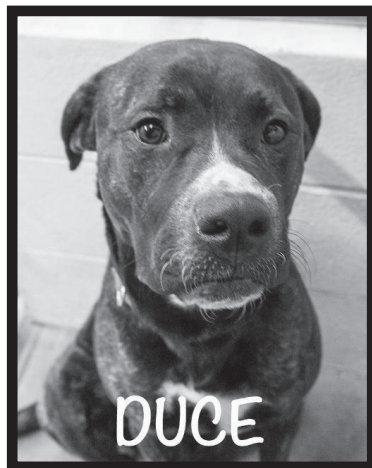
A program with all the details on this year's event will be available the week prior to Jamboree.

## 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

## Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Duce is a neutered male, pit bull mix. He weighs about 80 lbs. and is brindle with some white. He is a playful, smart, and very sweet boy. We don't feel that Duce would be a great match for other dogs or kitties and would prefer for him to go to a home alone. He tries to stay clean in his kennel, and he would probably do best with someone who doesn't leave him alone too much. Duce has been at the shelter now for just about 8 months. We would love to find this kid a place to call home.

In the best interest of the pets in our care CHS does not have the kennels open to the public. CHS is committed to making sure that both our pets and our adopters are successful. If you are interested in adopting a shelter pet, please don't hesitate to call or email. We like to get to know our adopters before we have you meet our pets. We feel that if we can talk to our adopters, we will be able to better assist them in finding that perfect family member.

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)

## Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Board Meeting

July/August joint meeting  
5:30 pm on Thursday  
August 2, 2018

at the UNWC office 1201 Texas Ave. Suite A. Entrance is around the back of the building

For more info call  
(503) 396-2046  
or email  
[maggie@nehalem.org](mailto:maggie@nehalem.org)



Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue on August 2.