

Oregon Extends Face Coverings *continued from front page*

in both urban and rural counties. The upcoming July 4th holiday weekend is a critical point for Oregon in this pandemic, and we can all make a difference.”

“Modeling from the Oregon Health Authority shows that if we don’t take further action to reduce the spread of the disease, our hospitals could be overwhelmed by new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations within weeks. The choices every single one of us make in the coming days matter.”

The Oregon Association of Hos-

pitals and Health Services (OAHHS) expressed supported for the Governor’s decision in a statement from President and CEO Becky Hultberg. “We know that when we all make the choice to wear a face covering in public, we are doing our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. With cases on the rise rapidly across the state, it is now more important than ever to take this step to protect our loved ones, our neighbors, and our communities. Further, if we are to coexist alongside the virus, wide adoption of

public face coverings is an essential factor in keeping our businesses and public spaces open.”

“I do not want to have to close down businesses again like other states are now doing,” said Brown “If you want your local shops and restaurants to stay open, then wear a face covering when out in public.”

Brown took her action as the state heads into summer and the July 4th holiday weekend. “Please keep your 4th of July celebrations small and local,” said Brown. “We saw a lot of new COVID-19 cases following the Memorial Day holiday. Another spike in cases after the upcoming holiday weekend could put Oregon in a dangerous position. Oregonians have all made incredible sacrifices over the last several months that have saved thousands of lives. The actions we take now can protect our friends, neighbors, loved ones, and fellow Oregonians

from this disease, and prevent the need for another statewide shutdown. We are truly all in this together.”

Oregon’s overall number of COVID-19 cases remains low compared to many other more populous states which have seen a large surge in new cases, and are now beginning to take action. Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced bars will be closed again in order to stop the spread, beaches and bars in Florida will be closed for the 4th of July weekend, Arizona has closed all bars, movie theaters, gyms, and water parks for 30 days, New Jersey has delayed the planned reopening of restaurants for indoor seating, and the Governor of Kansas has mandated the statewide use of masks.

Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) will take the lead, along with other state and local agencies, in enforcing face covering requirements for all covered Oregon businesses.

Vernonia Police Blotter June 15-29, 2020

Reports Taken/Arrests • June 15, 2020 Report of Illegal Firearms Transfer near East Bridge Street • June 20, 2020 Report of a Warrant arrest near Bridge Street • June 21, 2020 Report taken of Telephonic Harassment near Madison Avenue • June 24, 2020 Report of Theft II and Unlawful Entry of a Motor Vehicle near Rose Avenue • June 26, 2020 Report of an Abandoned	Vehicle Tow near State Avenue Citations/Other • June 15, 2020 Cited for No Operators License, Failure to Display Plates, and No Proof of Insurance near Missouri Avenue • June 17, 2020 Cited for Careless Driving near mile post 60.
Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 06/01/2020 through 06/29/2020 VPD had 162 calls for service.	

Forest Service Should Embrace a Full-Time Workforce *continued from front page*

Currently, seasonal employees lack access to the main perks of government employment: health insurance, paid time off, and retirement packages. Access to health care should be essential for firefighters, and many current seasonal employees would be happy to trade winters off for steady employment and benefits. Meanwhile, year-round employment could help stabilize the Forest Service budget, clear its \$5.2 billion maintenance backlog, and, over time, create healthier forests and grasslands, increasing carbon sinks and leading to less destructive wildfires.

When I worked as a seasonal firefighter, it felt like my life was on pause in the winters. I eagerly waited for the start of fire season. Ironically, that signified stability. If my peers and I had been employed full-time, we would have worked better together, gained a deeper understanding of our local jurisdictions, and had more opportunities for training and education. We also would have been insured and felt more respected as employees. Ultimately, the decision to grant the Forest Service increased funding to support more permanent employees could lead to a more positive outcome, not only for the agency and its employees, but for the ecological systems that are integral to our survival.

This article was originally published in High Country News on June 15, 2020. Anastasia Selby is currently working on a narrative nonfiction book, HOTSHOT, which describes her time as a wildland firefighter and details the history of forest management and Indigenous land practices in the Western United States. She is based in Seattle.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING CITY COMMITTEES:

Volunteers are needed to serve on various City Committees. Participating on a City Committee is a rewarding experience, providing an opportunity to learn and share your skills. It also enables volunteers to become involved in their local government.

VERNONIA PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission shall control the subdivision of and may make recommendations to the City Council, to the public officials, and to individuals regarding land use; location of thoroughfares, public buildings, parks and other public facilities; and, regarding any other matter relating to the planning and development of the City and the surrounding area. The commission may authorize and supervise studies, hold hearings, and prepare reports and recommendations on its own initiative or at the request of the City Council

Meeting Day and Time: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers

Open Positions: 1 vacant seat for an in-town or out of town resident

PARKS COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 4th Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers

Open Positions: 2 vacant seats for in-town residents

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers

Open Positions: 1 vacant seat which may be from outside city limits & 2 vacant seats for in-town residents

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS

General duties and responsibilities of committees include:

- *Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council.
- *Promote the general welfare and economic benefit of the city and its citizens.
- *Participate in studies, and prepare reports and recommendations on their own or at the request of the City Council

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete an application for Appointment (www.vernonia-or.gov) and return to City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064, Fax to 502-429-4232 or email to sborst@vernonia-or.gov. Any questions please call the City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 105.

NOTICE OF POSITIONS OPEN CITY OF VERNONIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Election will be held on the 3rd day of November 2020, at which time the legal voters of the City of Vernonia will be entitled to vote for candidates to certain city offices.

OFFICES OPEN FOR ELECTION:

- VERNONIA MAYOR TWO YEAR TERM
- VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM
- VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM

Election packets will be available May 27, 2020 at the office of the City Recorder, 1001 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064. Nominating petitions can be filed no sooner than June 1, 2020, and filed no later than Friday, August 21, 2020, by 4:00 p.m. with the City Recorder. For more information call Stephanie Borst, City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 105.

The City of Vernonia is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

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