

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

Greeting to all Vernonians. Thank you for supporting me for another two-year term 2021 and 2022. It has been an honor to serve Vernonia, the town I love and admire.

2020 was a very challenging year. In fact, one year ago today, no one knew that we would be facing a pandemic as widespread and deadly as COVID-19.

Our health care workers, our small businesses, our teachers and students, our faith communities and countless others have been impacted in ways that are indescribable.

One thing I have witnessed over the last ten months in this community is a willingness to come to-

gether, be creative, and support one another in tough times. That is what Vernonians do.

As we move forward into the new year, there is some indication of returning to a somewhat normal lifestyle. I am optimistic that our first responders, the elderly, and those at high risk can soon choose to take the COVID vaccination. Hopefully the COVID positive numbers fall soon, reducing our county's "high risk" status, reopening our restaurants, small businesses, and schools.

Even though there could be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, I want to strongly emphasize the importance of practicing social distancing, wearing a mask whenever appropriate, and thorough and

regular handwashing.

In our ever changing world today, many questions remain unanswered as we move forward into 2021. It has been my experience that how we relate to and treat others is most important. Treating others with kindness and respect go a long way and really does help to brighten one's day.

In closing, I would like to once again thank the citizens of Vernonia for their support, the sacrifices made in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the "good ole Vernonia spirit" portrayed.

Working together for the good of all.

Respectfully,
Mayor Rick Hobart

Vernonia Weather December 2020

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	43	25	T
2	53	25	0
3	48	27	0
4	56	26	0
5	52	25	.10
6	48	36	T
7	49	35	T
8	49	35	0
9	50	35	.05
10	42	34	.18
11	42	34	.40
12	43	37	.25
13	43	37	.15
14	45	36	.03
15	48	39	.19
16	47	39	.86
17	48	37	.18
18	47	39	.48
19	51	41	1.43
20	49	44	.27
21	55	38	.79
22	46	30	.05
23	45	25	T
24	46	25	0
25	44	33	.60
26	49	39	.14
27	49	27	0
28	42	29	0
29	37	29	.30
30	42	36	.85
31	49	42	.12
Ave/Tot	47.0	33.5	7.42

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

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue on February 4.

Oregon Humanities and OCF Seeking Proposals for Artist Fellowships

Oregon Humanities, in partnership with Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) is now accepting applications through February 15, 2021 for the second round of the Fields Artist Fellowship program, offering two years of financial support to Oregon-based artists who are in a pivotal moment or inflection point in their careers.

Four artists will be awarded two-year fellowships to advance their artistic practice while developing creative and meaningful ways to address and respond to the opportunity gap in Oregon.

The first Fields Artist Fellowships were awarded in 2019 to Crystal Akins of Lincoln City, Mic Crenshaw of Portland, Ka'ila Farrell-Smith of Chiloquin, and Joe Whittle of Enter-

prise.

More information on how to apply is available on the Oregon Humanities website (www.oregonhumanities.org). A selection committee will review applications and award the fellowships by July 2021.

During their fellowship terms, Fields Artist Fellows will respond to and explore the opportunity gap in their region, participate in cohort gatherings, and document their experiences and projects. Each fellow will receive \$100,000 over the course of the two-year term. In addition, eight finalists will each receive a one-time award of \$10,000.

The phrase "opportunity gap" refers to widening socioeconomic disparities across Oregon largely determined by the circumstances into which a child is born, such as family circumstances, neighborhoods, educational experiences, and race and ethnicity.

Artists of all disciplines are encouraged to apply, including writers, filmmakers, visual artists, multimedia artists, culture bearers, and performance artists. Eligibility requirements include the following:

- At least five years of professional practice in an artistic discipline or combination of disciplines
- At least three years of residence in Oregon (non-continuous) and the intent to reside in Oregon for the majority of the fellowship term (September 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023)
- Demonstrable evidence of artistic practice that can engage with community groups and organizations and/or address community concerns

Oregon Humanities will administer the program and convene gatherings for the fellows. All funding is provided by the Fred W. Fields Fund of Oregon Community Foundation.

Oregon Humanities connects people and communities through conversation, storytelling, and participatory programs to inspire understanding and collaborative change. More information about our programs and publications – which include the Connect In Place, Consider This, Humanity in Perspective, Public Program Grants, Responsive Program Grants, and Oregon Humanities magazine – can be found at oregonhumanities.org. Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.



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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 or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Columbia Humane Society

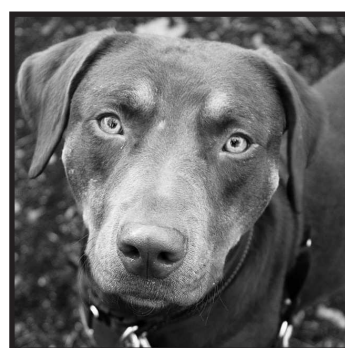
Purr-fect Pals



Sebastian is a two year old, very sweet male kitty that is looking for a new forever home with his equally lovely brother Falkor. Both these boys are so handsome and have personalities to match. They're big guys with a whole lot of love to give.

If you are interested in giving both these guys a great home please don't hesitate to email animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org in order to obtain an application. The adoption fee is \$125 which includes current vaccines, microchip, and treatment for fleas and worms.

Featured Dog



What do you get when you combine a little bit of flour and a little bit of a fat, and some spice for an extra kick? The perfect Roux of course! At 3 years old, I am a young energetic gent weighing in at 60 lbs. You know, there is a Louisiana French phrase that goes "Losh pa la pa tot" which means "don't let go of the potato" or "don't give up". And that enduring spirit has led me all the way from the South to St. Helens to find my new family!

Big and boisterous I still have a lot of puppy-like character and a very Baby Huey playstyle with my dog friends. I am just a big goof and don't have a ton of impulse control just yet, but the ladies say that I am very smart and quick to catch onto the basics. Plus, I am very food motivated which helps with my training. Due to my size and careless bounce, I am looking for a home with kids over 14 and no kitties. Though dog parks are too much for me, I do enjoy playing one on one with doggies who can keep up with my annoying puppy-like antics (and maybe also teach me how to take play breaks!).

Roux is neutered, current on vaccines, and treated for fleas and worms. His adoption fee is \$250. If you are interested in meeting Roux we ask that you please email adoption@columbiahumane.org in order to obtain an application. Please note that all adoptions are done by appointment only. We will only schedule an appointment once you have an approved application on file. Please NO PHONE CALLS, email inquiries are the easiest way to get ahold of us, as we spend the majority of the days working with our animals and are not available to answer phone calls.