

Fishhawk Lake Settles with State for 2019 Drawdown

Fishhawk Lake Reserve & Community, Inc., (FLRC) a rural community in NW Oregon, announced that it has reached a settlement with the State of Oregon for all claims related to the drawdown of the lake in August 2019. FLRC determined that it was in the best interest of its community to settle this matter to pave the way for collaborative work with the state, county, and local communities to improve Fishhawk Lake and the Upper Nehalem River watershed.

FLRC originally engaged in emergency repairs of the underdrain to avoid a catastrophic failure of the Fishhawk Lake impoundment, which necessitated drawing down lake levels. That work resulted in a complaint being filed against FLRC, leading to a criminal investigation which found that the work caused the death of approximately 30,000 fish. FLRC has disputed the death of any fish caused by the draw-

down.

In February 2021, The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality fined FLRC \$439,200 for creating pollution in Fishhawk Creek. At that time, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife was also seeking a separate claim for the fish kill.

FLRC has now agreed to pay \$250,000 to settle claims related to the August 2019 drawdown, with its insurance carriers paying the balance of the \$3.7 million settlement amount. In addition, FLRC will conclude construction of a new fish ladder, spillway, and repair of the lake's underdrain by 2023, and develop a water quality plan for the lake by 2025. Two of FLRC's personnel, former Board President Patrick McGillivray and employee Jim Dahlquist, have accepted misdemeanor pleas to assist the community in fully resolving the matter. ODFW Statewide Communications Coordinator Michelle Dennehy

told *Vernonia's Voice* the matter is also settled for ODFW. "We are pleased that we can now move forward with restoration efforts benefiting coho salmon, other native fish and Fishhawk Lake," said Dennehy.

"The last two years have been exceedingly challenging and we are looking forward to having the dispute with the State behind us so we can continue the progress made toward improving the ecosystem of this beautiful little lake," said Jeanne Scillee, President of the Board of FLRC. "We are pleased that nearly all the payments made under the settlement agreement will be

used for restoration projects benefiting Fishhawk Creek, its tributaries, and other North Oregon Coast waterways. One project will restore parts of Warner Creek – a tributary to Fishhawk Creek – for the benefit of listed coho salmon."

"FLRC is incredibly grateful for the help of State Senator Betsy Johnson and former Tillamook County Commissioner Mark Labhart, who brought together the various parties involved in the claims in order to obtain an outcome that would best serve the interests of the State and FLRC," added Scillee. "We are appreciative of their leadership in a difficult time for our community."

CAC Performing Arts Series Returns for 2021-22

The Clatskanie Arts Commission (CAC) is celebrating the return of its Performing Arts Series with a Big Band in the Park Concert on Labor Day, September 6, 2021 in the Clatskanie City Park. This **free** concert, sponsored by Donna Garlock, will be held in the Clatskanie City Park from 2-4 pm with music by the North Coast Big Band from Astoria. Limited food will be available for purchase beginning at 1:00 pm as a fundraiser for the CAC.

In celebration of CAC's Performing Arts Series, free cake will be served at intermission.

For the safety of the performers and audience, please bring your own chairs and socially distance. Owners of vintage vehicles are encouraged to bring them for display on the grass behind the bleachers.

CAC's 2021-22 Season includes:

- Sun, Sept 19, 3:00 pm Fernhill Bluegrass Band with the Bloomer Family
- Sat, Oct 2, 7:30 pm Violinist Aaron Meyer
- Sun, Dec 12, 3:00 pm Men of Worth's Holiday Show
- Sun, Mar 20, 3:00 pm Sundae & Mr. Goessl

- Sun, Apr 3, 3:00 pm Karen Carpenter Tribute Band
- Sun, May 22, 3:00 pm Pianist Sarah Hagan

All performances will be held at the Birkenfeld Theatre, in the Clatskanie Cultural Center, 75 S. Nehalem, Clatskanie, Oregon. For more information about performers, please visit their website, www.clatskaniearts.org.

Brochures and tickets for this year's Performing Arts Series will be available at the park, online at clatskaniearts.org or by calling (503) 728-3403. Tickets held from the COVID canceled programs will be honored but must be exchanged for the same performance at least a week before the new performance date. Please call (503) 728-3403.

Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, at 6:00 pm. Please check the District's website for updates/changes: www.vernonia.k12.or.us.

Head Start Recruiting Now



Local Head Start programs are now recruiting 3 and 4 year olds for the 2021-2022 school year.

Heads Start offers a comprehensive preschool experience free of charge to qualifying families. A developmentally appropriate classroom curriculum taught by certified teachers offers all children the opportunity to be kindergarten ready.

The program offers parents opportunities to learn and grow along with their children; receive guidance to complete medical, dental, and nutri-

tional assessments; get on the job training in the early childhood field, and learn about local opportunities for the whole family.

Children receive USDA approved lunch plus breakfast and/or afternoon snack on each day of class. (Head Start and USDA are both equal opportunity providers.)

For more information you may phone local centers: Vernonia/Mist area (503) 429-9243, St. Helens/Scappoose area (503) 397-4114, Clatskanie/Rainier area (503) 728-2940, Knappa/Astoria/Warrenton area (503) 861-9681.

Head Start is a Community Action agency.

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