

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

I'm tired of hearing about COVID too. But I know ignoring it, denying its existence, does not make it go away. Only infants fall for the peek-a-boo game. And that the longer it lasts, the more variants will form, until one day a doomsday version forms that is totally immune to any preventive vaccine, like Rhinovirus (the common cold), and has no effective treatment, like Ebola, Polio, and some forms of cancer among many others. Epidemics are like a fire. Once totally extinguished, like Smallpox, they no longer pose a threat; it's like they never existed, save for the loss and damage they leave behind. But if we play around with a potentially dangerous fire, we're inviting disaster; it

could get away from us.

So let's not play with fire. There were 16 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Columbia County yesterday as I write this. We're a relatively high-risk county, doubtless due to the low percentage of our population that has been vaccinated, and because of the higher proportion of us who refuse to simply wear a mask in public. These two things, together with common sense social distancing, could put an end to this whole thing, permanently! If everyone (in the world, alas) would get vaccinated, religiously wear a mask and practice social distancing for two weeks, we'd put this fire out completely! That's the gestation period of COVID-19 and past the point of highest contagion. But until this fire is dead out, no smoldering embers, no whiffs of smoke, ever more clever new variants will continue to form. Today it's the "Delta" variant that is causing so many "breakthrough" infections. On the horizon is the "Lambda" variant which is even worse, and we already know of at least three more. How long can we allow this to go on before we actually get to a doomsday variant?

Short necked giraffes don't exist because they couldn't compete with the long-necked versions for food. They starved before ever getting a chance to breed. Don't be a short-necked giraffe! It's all quite Darwinian...

The earth is a co-op!

Nick Galaday
Vernonia

To the Editor,

American Legion Vernonia Post 119 would like to thank the sponsors, volunteers, and attendees of our fundraising event held during the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show. The impressive turnout demonstrated great support for Veterans in the community.

We are fortunate to partner with Holy Smoker BBQ as we host our next fundraising event on Saturday, August 28, during the Vernonia City Wide Garage Sale. Holy Smoker BBQ will be set up beside our building selling their delicious fare. Post 119 will be having a garage sale, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The address for this fundraising event is 627 Adams Avenue, Vernonia.

If you have any items you would like to donate for our garage sale please contact us at (971) 288-8887 or al.vernonia.post.119@gmail.com.

Damien Cox
Vernonia Post #119 Commander

Community Calendar

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collections – Saturday, August 28, and October 23, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, at the Columbia County Transfer Station, 1601 Railroad Ave., St. Helens. Call Kathy at (503) 397-7259 for information

Mural Festival – Saturday, September 4, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. 10 murals on display in downtown Vernonia. Mini mural sidewalk chalk art provided by Hands on Art.

Vernonia Weather July 2021			
DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	69	56	0
2	80	54	0
3	83	51	0
4	80	54	0
5	81	54	0
6	85	54	0
7	75	53	0
8	72	48	0
9	84	52	0
10	81	45	0
11	82	47	0
12	79	47	0
13	81	49	0
14	74	53	0
15	73	52	0
16	72	50	0
17	75	44	0
18	80	44	0
19	81	44	0
20	74	45	0
21	72	40	0
22	77	42	0
23	81	42	0
24	85	48	0
25	85	50	0
26	84	49	0
27	85	47	0
28	88	47	0
29	92	52	0
30	96	52	0
31	76	56	0
Ave/Tot	80.1	49.1	0
Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant			

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.

Roadwork on Scappoose-Vernonia Highway Begins

Columbia County Public Works wants you to be aware of two projects that will impact traffic on Scappoose-Vernonia Highway:

Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy MP 4.0

Road reduced to one-lane gravel during work hours for three weeks starting August 16.

A slide area on Scappoose-Vernonia Highway will be repaired in response to storm damage experienced in 2015. The project will remove unstable material and build the area back up to support the roadway. It will establish guard railing along the side of the road and be topped off with new pavement through the construction site.

If drivers want to avoid the area, they can use Apiary Road, but delays at the construction site should not be more than 20 minutes.

At least one-lane will be open during work hours and then both lanes open in the evening and weekends. The

downside is that traffic will have to run on gravel though the site in order to be as efficient as possible.

Construction is expected to be complete by September 6.

Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy MP 16.0 at Bonnie Falls

Crews will be working to smooth out the hump at Bonnie Falls and will have intermittent lane closures controlled with flaggers through the area. The travel surface will be gravel at times with both lanes open for evenings and weekends until final paving is done.

The timing for this work is dependent on availability of equipment and workload, but the intent is to get this done before the fall rains come.

For more information, contact Columbia County Public Works at (503) 397-5090 or email at publicworks@columbiacountyor.gov.

VERNONIA
Community
Garage Sale

Saturday, August 28th 9am – 5pm

SPONSORED BY VERNONIA INTERCULTURAL SOCIETY

Application available at Vernonia City Hall

Columbia Humane Society

Purr-fect Pals

This little guy is sure to win your heart. Francis is very sweet and friendly, and in true kitten form he is very playful. Coming into the shelter at just 12 weeks old, he has lived with his littermates his entire life. For social reasons we would like to see him either placed in a home with another friendly, social, well established cat, or one of his littermates. Francis is already altered, vaccinated, chipped, and has been treated for fleas and worms. The next step in his life is to find just that perfect home he can call his own.

If you are interested in meeting him you can email adoption@columbiahumane.org in order to obtain an application. Once you have an approved application on file we will then set up a time for you to come and meet him.

His adoption fee is \$125. Email is our preferred way of communication so we can answer in the evening, as most of our daytime is spent working and caring for the animals that are in our care.

Featured Dog

Please welcome Eugene to the CHS family. What this guy is missing in size, he makes up for with his sweet heart. He is about a year old and weighs around 30 lbs. He can be very shy when he is first meeting new people and experiencing new things, so we would like to place him in a home with a very sweet female dog that is confident and able to teach him all the right things to do in life. He has been exposed to cats and seems to do well with them. We are unsure how he is going to do with kids so if he is placed with them they should be a little older and calmer. Training will be a must for the family that accepts Eugene in their life. This guy is pretty much a blank slate that is ready to be taught what the world has to offer. If you are interested in meeting him we ask that you please email adoption@columbiahumane.org in order to obtain an application. Once we have an approved application on file we will then schedule a time for you to come and meet him. *Please note that generally any adoption phone calls are not returned.* Due to time constraints and small staff, we generally answer emails in the evenings when we are at home as our days are spent in the kennels working with the animals.

2084 Oregon Street, St. Helens, OR 97051

E-mail: info@columbiahumane.org

Web: www.columbiahumane.org