

Business Notes

Northwest approach to forest health, atmospheric carbon dioxide

U. S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) are continuing their effort to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide and achieve other environmental goals with the Forest Resources for the Environment and Economy (FREE) Act, which would provide loans to help non-industrial, private landowners plant trees and improve the productivity and health of existing forests. The program is modeled after the Forest Resource Trust, a program implemented by the State of Oregon in 1993 and operated by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

"Investing in healthy forests today is an investment in the well-being of our planet for decades to come. This legislation is a win for the global envi-

ronment, a win for sustainable forestry, a win for water protection, rural communities and forest workers," said Wyden. "I'm proud to pursue this common sense solution with Larry Craig and the broad coalition supporting this bill."

"As the science continues to evolve on the issue of global climate change, I believe it is important to responsibly pursue voluntary actions that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. This bill is a wonderful example of how that goal can be successfully achieved," said Craig. "I look forward to more bipartisan efforts that pursue common sense goals of stabilizing the amount of greenhouse gases through programs such as the tree planting initiative supported in

this bill."

First introduced in the 106th Congress, the Wyden-Craig bill aims to create a state revolving loan program to provide for reforestation or similar projects. To qualify for funding, projects must increase the total amount of carbon storage through foliage or other plant growth in the area where they will be un-

Event calendar Jamboree topic

The next meeting of the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree Committee will be 7:00 p.m. May 17, in the Washington Grade School library.

In this meeting, the following information for Jamboree advertising and Official Jamboree Program will be gathered:

The event name, time, place, schedule, plus any brochures or other pertinent information.

If you are unable to attend, you may e-mail, phone or write the event information. If you do none of the above, your event will be an "unevent" and will not receive recognition on the Jamboree Web Page (go to vernonia.com and click activities), the Jamboree pre-advertising or the Jamboree Program.

Reserve space for local Expo

The Vernonia Community Business and Organization Expo will be Saturday, June 2, at Washington Grade School from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There will be a \$25.00 charge for table space to advertise your club, organization, business, etc.

Admission is free and the public is invited to see the many offerings of businesses and organizations in Vernonia.

For more information, call 503-429-1414 or 503-429-7387.

Watershed Council meeting slated

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC) will meet Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mist-Birkenfeld main fire station on Hwy. 202.

Watermaster Greg Beaman will be at the meeting to discuss a proposal from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for installation of permanent flow gages in the Nehalem watershed. He also wants to re-confirm UNWC en-

dorsement of the project for OWEB funding.

Other topics will include development of watershed improvement projects in the upper Fishhawk Basin and project ideas for the UNWC Action plan. There will also be time for additional public comment.

For more information contact Maggie Peyton, Coordinator, at 503-429-2401, or e-mail smoothie@vernonia.com

Will you have Yard of the Month?

Starting this June, Vernonia Pride will be implementing a "Yard of the Month" club. A group of Vernonia Pride members will be scouting the town looking for that eye-catching yard.

Once the members choose the yard of the month, a sign will be placed in that yard and a picture will be placed on a

plaque at city hall.

"Yard of the Month" recognition will be held in the months of June, July and August.

To nominate a yard, call Vernonia Pride at 503-429-5201, or leave a nomination at city hall. The deadline will be the last day of the month to nominate for the following month.

Food Handlers class scheduled

A Food Handler's class will be given at Leonetti's Pizza & Grill, 721 Madison Avenue in Vernonia, on May 17 at 9:30 a.m.

The test required to obtain a Food Handler's card is based on information from a Food Handler's booklet that may be checked out from the Vernonia Public Library or purchased

from Columbia County Public Health at 2370 Gable Road, across from St. Helens High School for \$2.00. Fee for the Food Handler's card is \$10.

Those taking the class should bring a pen or pencil. The time required is about one and one-half hours.

For more information, call Mark Edington at 503-366-3828.

County will open parks for summer

The Columbia County Forests, Parks and Recreation Department will be re-opening all of their facilities for the 2001 summer season effective Friday, May 18.

Parks personnel, along with local youth corps and the Spruce Runners chapter of the Good Sam RV Association, are working to get everything in order and up to the standards we are accustomed to seeing in our parks, according to Dave Hill, director of county parks and public works. The community service workers will be giving many facilities a facelift with paint, new signs and various other minor improvements.

Fee structure for Columbia County parks is the same as last year. RV sites are \$18 per night; tent sites \$14 per night; reserved picnic areas \$20 per day; day-use fees are \$2 per vehicle per day. Various additional fees also apply.



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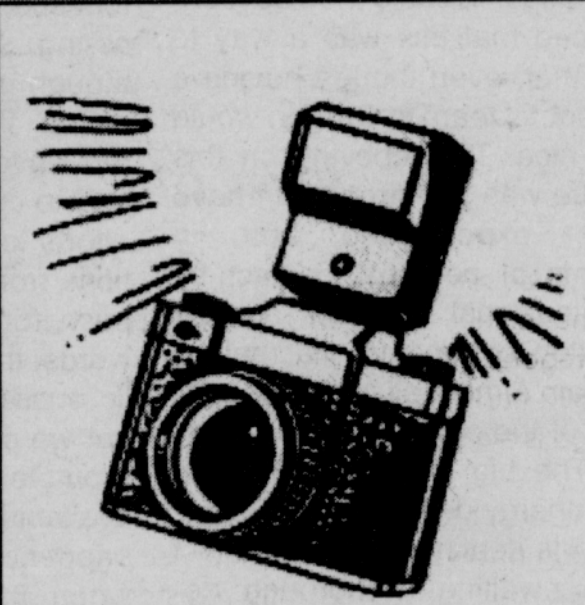
dertaken. This will increase the "carbon sink" effect through which CO2 is naturally cleansed from the atmosphere. In addition, only projects with a positive effect on watersheds and fish and wildlife habitats will qualify for funding. The program will be funded with fines collected from Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act violators. Last year, such fines totaled \$45 million.

Support and positive reaction for the free Act have come from timber companies and en-

vironmental organizations alike, including the National Association of State Foresters and the Society of American Foresters, American Forest and Paper Association, American Forests, Environmental Defense Fund, Governor John A. Kitzhaber of Oregon, Pacificorp, The Nature Conservancy and the Pacific Forest Trust.

Craig and Wyden are the Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Senate's Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management.

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