

Artifacts still missing; no response to questions

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it was a public meeting and, again, Brown and directors of the historical society were present.

Vernonia City Administrator Mike Sykes reminded the commissioners that part of the city's economic strategy is to promote tourism and that the museum is an important part of that promotion. Having the museum open only a half day is not sufficient, Sykes said.

Having it closed is untenable.

Museum volunteer Enid Parrow told the board that a group is coming from Salem to visit the museum and sought permission to open up for them; the commissioners said "no" to that request.

When Vernonia City Councilor Cindy Ball asked who took the artifacts and where they are; she received no response at all.

Again, historical society directors had little comment, however, they said that the May

directors' meeting was cancelled and that some "radical changes" were coming up. They also brought an attorney along to represent the group.

Hyde said County Counsel John Knight would work with the historical society's attorney in an effort to settle disagreements and get both museums open and operating.

In a phone conversation with Hyde, *The INDEPENDENT* asked what is being done to locate the missing artifacts and whether it has been turned over to law enforcement for investigation. "That's a good question," Hyde said, "I'll instruct the (county's) attorney to ask about the missing artifacts."

Draft horse plowing exhibition to be held at Rock Creek campus

The 36th annual Draft Horse Plowing Exhibition, hosted by the Washington County Museum, will be held Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on the Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus.

The stars of the day will be the gentle giants of past farm life: Clydesdales, Shires, Percherons, Belgians and Suffolks. These one-ton muscle-powered teamsters will demonstrate a time-honored method of tilling the soil. Draft horse drawn hayrides will shuttle visitors from the plowing area to the museum.

The event will also feature

Columbia County opens parks for summer season

The Columbia County Forests, Parks and Recreation Department's Season Opening was May 1.

Improvements are continuing at the parks, including replacing the roof on the lodge at Camp Wilkerson, ensuring a dry stay, no matter what time of year, and safeguarding the integrity of the structure. Rainier Little League has upgraded the two ball fields to league standards, pitching mounds and all. The Good Sam Camper Club - Spruce Runners Chapter, has donated a used, but much larger, wood stove for the cabin at Hudson-Parcher Park. The new stove heats the cabin more thoroughly and in less than half the time. New paint and other minor improvements will also take place.

Prices have remained the same as last year. Tent sites are \$14 per night; RV sites are \$18 per night; day-use is \$2 per vehicle. Other rates for picnic, cabin, lodge, extra vehicle, etc. may apply. Sites are now restricted to a maximum of eight people, or a maximum of two vehicles and one towed vehicle. A towed vehicle is not charged the additional vehicle fee.

Reservations may be made by calling 503-397-2353, faxing 503-397-7257, emailing

colparks@columbia-center.org or mailing your request to Columbia County Parks, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon 97051. In all cases, include a contact person's name, day and evening phone numbers and/or email address, name of park, dates of stay and site numbers, if you know them, ten or RV preference, number of people, vehicles, etc. staying in the site, and any other information necessary in placing the reservation.

Volunteer Fair slated for St. Helens

The Columbia County Volunteer Fair will be held Wednesday, May 29, at St. Helens High School, 2375 Gable Road. The fair is free and open to the public. Volunteer organizations from around the area will converge on the St. Helens High School commons for the event, hosted by the Associated Students of Portland Community College.

The fair will help people interested in volunteering to find the community organizations that best suit their interests. Students and the public can come and talk to representatives from Scappoose and St.

Helens Public Library and Avamere, a rehabilitation organization.

"We are trying to make it as easy as possible for everyone to give some time to their community," said Serena Lohrke, a student organizer of the volunteer fair. "Holding an event specifically aimed at recruitment will help inform everyone how to get started."

Lohrke also pointed out that volunteer experience is very beneficial for students applying to colleges, for scholarships or work.

For more information, call 503-543-6878.

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