

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Rain – oh how sweet. Even the bullfrog at the lake was rejoicing – or was he calling for a friend?

Something new to be concerned about at the lake. Someone has “burnt” one of the table tops. Looks like they wanted to make coffee or warm their hands with a “Sterno” pot. It couldn’t have been a small barbecue, unless they just put the briquets on the table. Please, for heaven’s sake, use your heads – you burned into the table. Good thing you had sense enough to put out the fire with lake water, or did you?

The transportation meeting at City Hall had a group from the Senior Center asking questions and voicing opinions. No real answers, though. If Vernonia gets a bus by some means, we (meaning anyone that can and will plunk out the \$) have to furnish insurance, upkeep, gas and drivers until and if the mess is settled. Bright spot – there is State money available – Bad spot – if and only if you serve only the elderly and disabled population. So, where does that leave us? No comment. The funding comes from the cigarette tax – two cents per pack. A comment made – So, we need more smokers in Oregon?

Chapter 2 on the S & H stamp saga –

On the fishing dock one afternoon, I was able to share the joy of my so-to-speak windfall with a lady from Wilsonville. Following the info I gave her, she has become several \$\$ richer. The nice thing is, they are going to invest in a season pass to Vernonia Lake because they love it out here.

If you’ve got the answer to someone’s quandary – share your knowledge with them. Make a new friendship. It feels good.

Walked just before the rain this a.m. Crows cawing, birds doing their thing – twitter tweeting. Janice pruned berry vine suckers coming onto the path to attack walkers and etc.

We noticed all the lake (planted) trees have “Leaf Curl”, even some of the old trees on the back side of the lake have curl or wilting – someone should investigate.

If you are a runner, Vernonia Cares 5K run is heading up the Jamboree this year, August 1, 2, & 3. Come join us – check out the reader board at the mini golf course.

Strange things, strange thought processes. I admonished some children not to throw rocks in or at the lilies in the lake one day – father said, “What’s it going to hurt?” – said I, “Ducks and fish” – says he, “How can you hit a fish? Don’t see any ducks.” – They did stop, though. Strange, the ducks came back to swimming at the boat ramp for all to enjoy watching.

A fellow asked, “Now that I’m retired, what should I do (retired about five years) with my time? My answer, “Fishing’s good, walking’s healthy – work in your yard with a teaspoon, but, for heavens sake, get out of the house – don’t sit and drive your wife crazy.

Here’s a bit of news to ponder – IQ scores may rise by 10 percent just before a storm.

Wake up call, there’s a phone scam afoot: A friend got a call – “You’ve won a “free” rug cleaning. Oh? I’ve not entered any contest and lady, nothing is free. I’m not interested. The caller said “I can send someone today” (Saturday). Answer: No – “How about Sunday?” – No, got church. “Monday?” – No, not interested and not home – “We can come on Tues.” My friend finally said – Guarantee it’s free, but I’m not buying, nothing is given for free, 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, fine. I was there as a witness. End of story, a man showed up at 10:40 selling vacuum cleaners all the way from Vancouver. He was, shall I say, upset. The lady caller never said who she was, what company she represented, and definitely didn’t say it was a pitch for a vacuum cleaner. So “Be Aware.” There’s always a tail on the cat.

Strand’s final meeting adopts budget

Performing her final duties as a Vernonia School Board member, Carla Strand chaired a brief meeting, held June 26, to adopt the 2003-04 budget approved by the budget committee and discuss the district’s liability insurance.

Prior to the resolution adopting the budget, a new fund was created to allow for the receipt and expenditure of federal

Special Ed position given top priority

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- Special Education Instructor, \$31,500
- Textbook Adoption, \$5,000
- Business/Alternative Education, \$16,875
- Athletic Transportation \$12,300
- Assistant coaches, \$25,500
- Custodian, \$18,000
- Fiscal Assistant, \$21,000
- Food Service Transfer, \$7,000
- Lincoln School Lunch Transportation, \$5,000
- Secretarial days, \$5,000
- Middle School Teacher, \$29,000
- Additional food service transfer, \$3,000
- Technology Equipment, \$5,000
- Contingency, \$36,500

The budget committee is composed of Chair Robyn Bassett, Noni Andersen, Jeff Blum, Tobie Finzel, Greg Kintz, Cindy Naillon and Vicky Rice, plus school board members Darrell Hamblet, Randy Hansen, Jim Krahn (budget committee vice-chair), Cari Levenseller, Leslie O’Leary, Carla Strand and Tim Titus.

grant funds for public charter schools. There was no public comment on the budget.

The board also approved a resolution needed to balance the budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year and allowed for an additional transfer of funds from the general fund to food service.

Superintendent Mike Funderburg told the board that the proposal from J.B.L.&K., the district’s insurance agent, indicated that the cost to maintain coverage at the current level would be \$6,545 above the \$87,000 budgeted for 2003-2004. An alternative carrier, Zurich, was reviewed and, at first, appeared to have a significantly lower premium than J.B.L.&K. However, Funderburg added, Zurich does not provide coverage for any form of child/sexual abuse, an area where liability coverage is critical. The board agreed that Zurich did not represent a viable alternative.

As part of the effort to decrease expenditures last year, the district dropped earthquake coverage that was previously

included in the district’s liability package. Since the cost of the current package rose so dramatically, Deputy Clerk Dawn Plews requested proposals for restoring earthquake coverage and reducing the premium by increasing the district’s deductible. According to Plews, there are adequate funds in contingency to increase the deductible to \$5,000. The board agreed to increase the deductible from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and include earthquake coverage for an additional \$8,371. The increase, beyond what is already budgeted for 2003-2004, will be \$14,916.

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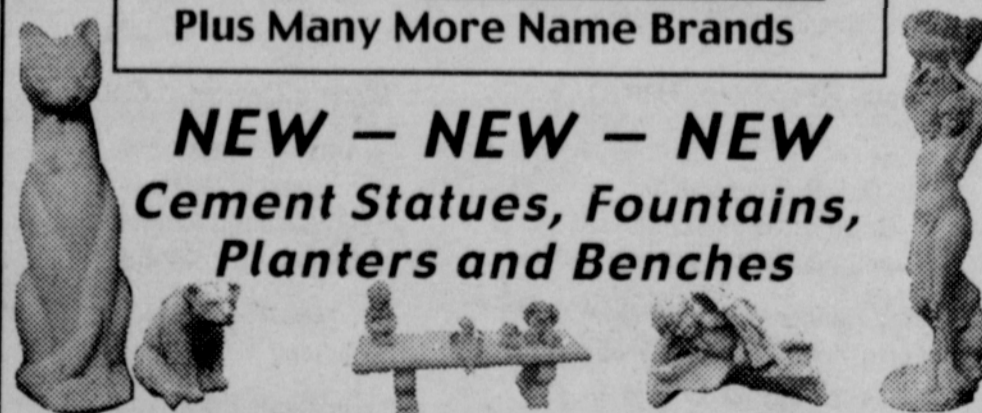
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