

State includes area bridges for repair or replacement

The Oregon Transportation Commission has approved funding for the replacement or rehabilitation of nearly 140 local (not on a State Highway) bridges, including the Sauvie Island Bridge. Total funding committed is \$3,725,000 from Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA III) dollars, no

local match is required.

Seven bridges maintained by the Columbia County Road Department were approved for replacement as follows: East Fork of the Nehalem River and North Fork Scappoose Creek, both on Scappoose-Vernonia Road; Lizzie Creek on Chapman Road; North Fork Scappoose Creek on Chapman Grange Road; Tide Creek on Anliker Road; South Beaver Creek on Old Hwy 30 - Rainier; Lost Creek on Lost Creek Road.

Washington County bridges

also approved include Nehalem River on Timber Road, Beaver Creek on Timber Road, Nehalem River on Vernonia Road, Council Creek on Cornelius-Schefflin Road and Council Creek on Spiesschaert Road, among others.

Date change for 9-1-1 meetings

The Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District Board of Directors regular meetings for March and April have been changed.

The March meeting will be March 25, from 9-11:00 a.m. The April meeting and workshop will be April 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Both meetings will be held at the Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District Facility in St. Helens.

For more information, call Maryjo Beck at 503-397-7255, ext. 221.

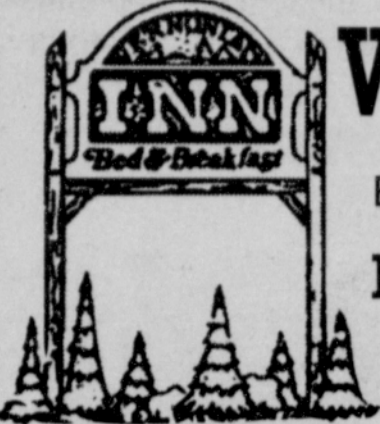
Bridge sidewalks are now closed

Sidewalks on both sides of the Lewis and Clark Bridge have been closed to all pedestrians and bicycles through the end of March.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WS DOT) closed the sidewalks because of safety concerns. Construction has closed sections of the existing sidewalk on both sides of the bridge. In order to cross the bridge, users walking or riding on one side would be forced to cross to the other side at a location where motorists cannot easily see them.

Pedestrian and bicycle access will be reopened as soon as construction related to the sidewalk closure is finished.

For more information about the project, or for bridge closure schedules, visit the project Web page at <www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/lewisclark-bridge>, or call project information toll-free, 1-866-427-4630.



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Community Calendar

MARCH							APRIL							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
28	29	30	31											30	31					

VERNONIA		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Ave./ 503-429-4000
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	Noon, Lew's Place
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-0188
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Hands On Art Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Home Extension Club	3rd Thursday	10:30 a.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-8134
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors		For location call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Garden Group	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Pioneer Museum
Vernonia Grange	4th Saturday	10:30 a.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 503-429-5201
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	3rd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD		
M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Schlegel Hall
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Women's Aglow	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.