

Two boat ramps add launch fees **Beaver Boat Ramp and Coon Island get funding**

Beginning August 1, Columbia County Parks Department will begin charging a fee to launch boats at Beaver Boat Ramp in Clatskanie and the Gilbert River Boat Ramp on Sauvie Island.

The fee will be \$2.00 per launch, and annual passes are available for \$20.00 from the Columbia County Parks Department, 1054 Oregon St., St.

Helens, OR 97051 or by calling 503-397-2353.

All fees collected for the launches will be used by the Columbia County Parks Department for maintenance of the ramps. In addition to these two facilities, the department also maintains marine facilities at JJ Collins Park (Coon Island near Scappoose) and at the Gilbert River (Sauvie Island).

Columbia County will receive \$450,000 in Oregon State Marine Board funds for two projects—a transient tie-up facility at Coon Island in the Multnomah Channel, and a single-lane, concrete launch ramp with boarding floats at Beaver Boat Ramp on the Clatskanie River.

The Marine Board granted \$3.5 million for boating access

projects in the 2005-2007 biennium for projects throughout the state. All of the grant funds come from boat registration and titling fees and state motorboat fuel tax. No general fund tax dollars are used in the program.

The Marine Board also received federal funds through the Boating Infrastructure Grant and the Clean Vessel Act

programs. Additional funds came from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, which contributed \$1.3 million for 13 boating projects from federal Sport Fish Restoration funds it administers.

**Columbia County
Fair thru Sunday,
Don't miss it!**

Letters

From page 3

July 4th celebration was wonderful event

To the Editor:

Wow! Wasn't that grand finale spectacular, the best show ever. That is the comments I've heard from people around town and after the show.

A big thank you to Tom Ramsey, our very own pyrotechnician, and his helpers from the volunteer fire department. Tom also provides the funds for the permits at his own expense and the music he added this year was also a very nice feature.

The parade was also bigger and better, thanks to all that participated.

We also want to thank George and Donna Tice of the Buckhorn for providing the spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser. It was a big success and the most profitable to date.

Thanks to the Vernonia Booster club and the scouts under the direction of Mrs. Stew-

art for their concession stands. Thanks to Marcie and Rick Gwin and Dale and Don Webb for collecting money after the show.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to all of the businesses, organizations, and individuals who so generously supported this function. Your donations are what enables us to keep the fireworks show going.

Vernonia has always come through in times of disaster, someone's personal tragedy and even for a great 4th of July fireworks show.

I'm not only proud to be an American, I am proud to be a Vernonian as well.

**Dede Webb
Vernonia Pride**

Salem must act to meet food needs

To the Editor:

In Columbia County the face of hunger is the face of a child. Hunger is an income issue, and it's definitely an issue for too

many Oregonians – 152,000 at last count. Nearly 1 in 5 Columbia County children live in food insecure households. We know that hunger will not be truly solved until every family in Oregon has enough money to pay for all their basic needs: including rent, utilities, food and medicine.

But there are steps we can take in the meantime, actions that give us the chance to relieve some of hunger's most immediate and harmful symptoms.

Two such chances are currently languishing in the Oregon House of Representatives: Senate Bill 289 and Senate Bill 467. Both bills give legislators the opportunity to do the right thing and invest a small amount of state tax dollars in programs that improve children's access to healthy, nutritious food.

SB 289 adds \$49,000 to the Women, Infant's and Children Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, a successful program that provided farmer's market vouchers to approximately 38,000 WIC households in 2004. In addition to providing nutritional support to the voucher holder, the program also helps support the many small farmers in Oregon who sell

their crops through farmers' markets and roadside stands.

The funds will be used to expand the program to more areas so that additional families, especially those in rural area, will have access to this valuable food resource.

SB 467 helps another program with a good track record at feeding children: The Summer Food Service Program, which serves free, nutritionally balanced meals to children in areas with high concentrations of low-income families. Despite increased efforts over the last few years, Oregon is still serving only about 19 percent of eligible children.

Many children who depend on school meals during the school year don't have access to a summer meal site, particularly in rural areas where high transportation and food costs make meal sites more expensive to operate. The \$150,000 allocated by the bill provides five cents per lunch to help with costs not already covered by a modest reimbursement from the federal government. This extra state funding will enable sponsors to start new sites and improve existing sites, thereby increasing access for thousands of hungry children in the

summer.

Feeding children should not be a partisan issue. These bills are easy and affordable steps to ease the symptoms of hunger while we continue to work on the root causes.

House members should pass these bills immediately, ensuring that there will be something on the meals plates for the many Oregon children at risk of hunger this summer.

**Tracie Smith
Executive Director
Columbia Pacific Food Bank**

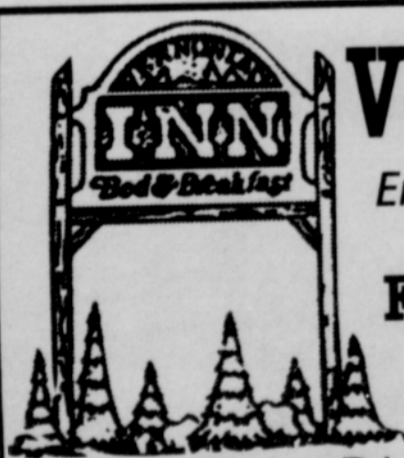
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Vernonia Rural Fire District

Abbreviations: EMS, Emergency Medical Service; MVA, Motor Vehicle Accident

JUNE 2005

- June 2 – EMS assist, MVA @ Neh. Hwy N
- June 4 – MVA @ Neh. Hwy S, Mutual aid on MVA at Apiary Rd
- June 5 – EMS assist
- June 6 – EMS assist (2), False alarm
- June 9 – EMS assist
- June 10 – EMS assist, MVA @ Coon & Pebble Crks
- June 11 – EMS assist, chimney fire
- June 12 – Illegal burn
- June 13 – EMS assist (2)
- June 14 – EMS assist (2)
- June 16 – Structure fire @ Hawkins Park
- June 18 – Public assist
- June 19 – EMS assist, public assist
- June 21 – Brush fire @ Riverside Drive
- June 24 – EMS assist (2)
- June 25 – EMS assist (3), public assist, smoke investigation
- June 28 – EMS assist
- June 29 – Mutual aid MVA @ Top Hill
- June 30 – EMS assist, MVA @ Burn Rd & Keasey Rd



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