

Council okays fireworks at lake this year despite harm to wildlife

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 taken at Vernonia Lake and asked Council not to hold fireworks at the lake due to concerns for wildlife. McGaugh provided information on the effects of fireworks on wildlife that can range from disorientation to loss of life when frightened birds fly into trees or other structures when startled by fireworks. After hearing pros and cons, Mayor Sally Harrison said there seemed to be consensus to allow the fireworks this one more time and then no

more. After further discussion, Councilor Shirlee Daughtry moved to allow fireworks during this Jamboree. The motion carried with ayes from Daughtry, Councilor Brett Costley, and Harrison. Councilor Shirley Goodman voted nay and Councilor Randy Parrow abstained because he serves on the Jamboree committee.

Council approved lease renewals for old City Hall and Library to Dixie Palmer, with minor changes addressing the city's responsibility for maintenance and repair, and for Airport property to Dana Anderson.

The lease to Gail and Larry Snethen for concessions at Vernonia Lake was changed to eliminate both the franchise fee and utility charges, in exchange for running the paddle boat/bicycle concessions for the city's profit. In addition, the lease allows the Snethens to sell barbecued meats with profits go-

ing to local non-profit organizations. The Snethens will continue to run their regular concession business.

In other business, council:
 • Set August 29 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall for an open house on OA Hill Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements;

• Set September 6 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall for a public hearing on the OA Hill improvements;

• Set August 15 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall for a workshop on Downtown Business District - Vacant/Warehoused Structures.

Bassett told council that a proposal to replace the Mile Bridge (commonly known as the green steel bridge) was designated as the number two project by the Northwest Area Commission on Transportation (NWACTION). Included in the proposal's information is that the bridge was built in 1938 and the lead-based paint on the bridge is deteriorating (Bassett said

"it's falling into the river."). Additionally, both the turning radius onto the bridge and the lane width are safety issues. Bassett said she is confident that, if this

proposal doesn't generate the funds needed to replace the bridge, funding from the Department of Transportation will be found.

State Dems affirm support of 2nd Amend.

The Democratic Party of Oregon, at their quarterly meeting in Medford, passed a resolution unconditionally reaffirming the right to keep and bear arms in accordance with the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and of Article 1, Section 27, of the Oregon State Constitution.

The right to bear arms is "an individual right not granted by the government, but rather *guaranteed* by the government" the resolution states. It also advocates severe penalties for criminal use or misuse of that right.

The resolution was passed to clarify the stance of the Democratic Party of Oregon re-

garding gun ownership.

In separate action, the party's new Rural Caucus held its organizational meeting and elected Jack Lorts of Fossil as chair. He will be assisted by vice-chair Steve Bucknum of Prineville, treasurer Sharon Rice of Roseburg, and secretary Jolene Jonas of St. Helens.

The Rural Caucus is designed to represent the political views and interests of rural Oregonians within the Democratic Party of Oregon, and to serve as an advocate for those issues within the party. It is expected to have significant influence in the platform and legislative agenda to be developed by the Party next spring.

Locally Grown



FRESH FLOWERS
CUT TO ORDER

Julie Prohaska
 Behind Vernonia Inn
503-429-7055

Community Calendar

AUGUST 2005							SEPTEMBER 2005							OCTOBER 2005						
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	6	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			MIST-BIRKENFELD			BANKS			COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church	Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post	Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Avenue	M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall	Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library	M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13	County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin	M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library	Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church	M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.	Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill	Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall	Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office	Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6033	T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library			
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library			
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.				Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby			
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133				Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club			
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center				T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.			
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library				Women's Aglow	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library			
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.									
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193									
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant									
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074									
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713									
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library									
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall									
Venturing Crew 201	1st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant									
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall									
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414									
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall									
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	6:30 p.m., WGS Library									
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 & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall									
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall									
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									

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.