

Meeting on planned interchange at Hwy. 47 and Sunset Highway

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), in conjunction with Oregon State Parks and Washington County, is now in the planning phase for a new interchange at Staley's Junction, the intersection of U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) and Oregon 47, 15 miles south of Vernonia. A public meeting is scheduled to present information about the project, discuss the timeline and review the findings in the preliminary environmental study. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Buxton Com-

munity Hall, 22770 NW Fisher Road in Buxton. Construction on the new interchange is scheduled for 2009. The turning movement from southbound Oregon 47 to eastbound U.S. 26 has been identified as a significant safety concern. In addition, the new L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park is slated to open in spring 2007. The new state park will, no doubt, generate increased traffic volumes at the intersection of U.S. 26 and Oregon 47. The formal meeting at 7:00 p.m. will be followed by a question and answer session.

Annual meeting set for Watershed Council

The annual meeting of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council will be held Thursday,

January 26, 7-9:00 p.m. at the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Hall. The public is invited to attend.

ODF meeting on off-highway use in Tillamook Forest

A meeting to discuss the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) 2006 off-highway vehicle (OHV) event season on the Tillamook State Forest will be held Monday, Jan. 30, in Forest Grove.

ODF is proposing significant changes for permitted events, including setting a calendar of available dates, reducing the number of events, establishing a system to allocate the dates, and other permit requirements. The proposal is intended to free

up limited staff time to focus on trail maintenance and resource protection. An unusually high number of trails have been closed this winter.

"Our trail system is not in shape to handle the increased level of motorized recreation it is getting, both organized and non-organized," said Bob Gustavson, acting Forest Grove district forester. "Trail maintenance should be our top priority and staff time needs to be adjusted to adequately plan,

implement and administer trail maintenance."

The meeting will be at the ODF Forest Grove District office, 801 Gales Creek Road, beginning at 6:30 p.m. OHV clubs have been contacted, and the public is also invited to attend and participate in the discussion.

For more information, contact Gustavson at 503-359-7431, or by e-mail at <rgustavson@odf.state.or.us>.

Delays will result from highway project in Manning

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turn lane on a one-mile section of U.S. 26

- Replacing culverts, including a new fish-passable culvert under the highway
 - Paving and striping the highway in the construction zone
 - Adding guardrail.
- Lane closures will be in

place from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. They may also occur between 7:00 a.m. and 11 a.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Work will occur after 11 a.m. on Fridays, but will not affect traffic. Occasional nighttime lane closures will be used as necessary. Flaggers will intermittently control both direc-

tions of U.S. 26 traffic weekdays in the project area. Motorists should use caution and expect up to 20 minute delays while traveling through the construction zone.

Capitol Concrete Construction, from Aumsville, is the prime contractor for the Oregon Department of Transportation project.

Community Calendar

JANUARY 2006							FEBRUARY 2006							MARCH 2006						
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	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31					
29	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 Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 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
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6033
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133
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	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall
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
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays	8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Behind VHS
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	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
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., Brown Derby
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

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.