

Many viewpoints about fireworks at Vernonia Lake

From page 1 the lake in order to protect wildlife, continue using fireworks at the lake, use the lake

only as an alternate site, no fireworks from two months before until two months after avian nesting season, have a committee look at the issue.

After hearing all comments, Councilor Brett Costley moved to restrict fireworks from the lake, but no one seconded the motion so no vote was called. Councilor Steve Whiteman followed with motion to restrict fireworks at the lake from two months before to two months after nesting season. Again, there was no second and no vote.

Mayor Harrison then appointed Tom Ramsay, Garrett Abney, Dale Webb, Casey Mitchell and Clark McGaugh (who later declined the appointment) to a committee to work on a recommendation to council. Others interested in serving on this committee may contact City Hall to add their names to

a list, as additional members will be designated.

In other business Council:
• Unanimously approved giving Columbia County \$3,500 to help with the Columbia County Rider transportation program.

• Directed staff to study potential for the purchase of property at 998 Bridge St.

• Set a workshop for June 15 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Planning Commission priorities.

The next council meeting will be June 5 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Unemployment rate remains unchanged

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in March at 5.5 percent – the same as the state's rate but higher than the nation's 4.7 percent. The county's rate dropped 2.3 percentage points from March a year ago.

Wildfire danger comes on fast

A few weeks ago, mounting pontoons on the lawnmower was gaining credence as a way to adapt to the soggy spring weather. Now, plummeting forest fuel moisture levels have weather forecasters talking about the early threat of wildfire

"In southwestern Oregon we're down to about 15 percent right now," said Jim Trost, meteorologist with the Oregon Department of Forestry. "The average for this time of year is the mid-20s."

His reference is to the moisture content of "1,000-hour fuels" - burnable material that includes larger forest fuels such as downed logs. When these large fuels dry out enough to burn readily, it raises the specter of big, active wildfires.

The situation in the rest of the state mirrors the southwest.

Please see page 5

RadioShack wants to come to Vernonia, OR.

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Community Calendar

MAY 2006							JUNE 2006							JULY 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					1	2	3							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	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
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 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 7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center 2nd Monday 6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Learning Center 1st & Last Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Parks Committee 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m., City Hall
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 2nd 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.