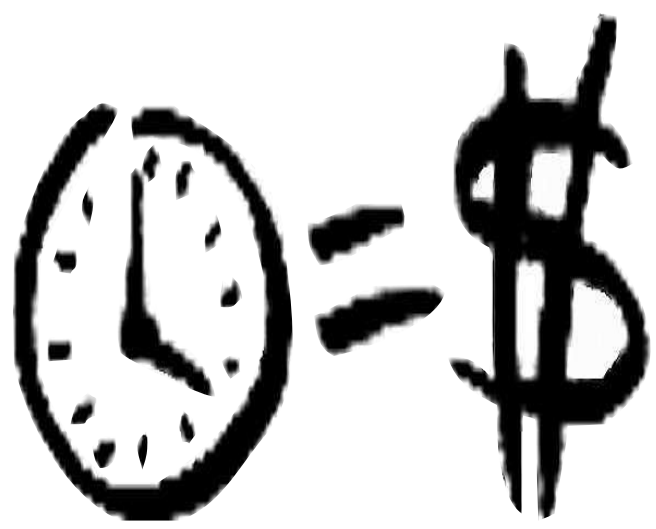


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Eminent domain halts logging at park

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission met August 7, and adopted the attached resolution. It invokes eminent domain to transfer timber rights at Stub Stewart State Park from Jim Smejkal to the state.

Jim Smejkal holds timber rights, though he no longer owns the land, on part of the property that was developed into Stub Stewart State Park, 10 south of Vernonia.

According to Chris Havel, of

Road work delays Northrup Creek access

Visitors planning to go to Northrup Creek Horse Camp in the Clatsop State Forest over the next several weeks should expect delays because of road construction.

The camp's access point, Northrup Creek Road located off Highway 202, is being realigned. Heavy equipment working on sections of the road

Oregon State Parks and Recreation (OSPR), "This sort of action is very rare. It's been nearly 30 years since state parks was forced to use eminent domain to transfer rights. We prefer open, voluntary negotiations with willing sellers. As you know, Smejkal has already cut about 24 acres of trees in the park, in an area that doesn't really affect visitors. We were in the midst of negotiating with Mr. Smejkal to purchase his remaining rights when he filed to

may slow traffic. The road remains open to the public and visitors are asked to follow all directional road signs. CB radios will be particularly beneficial for travelers in the work area.

For more information about Northrup Creek Road, contact the Astoria District office at 503-325-5451.

cut another 23 acres, this time around the new cabin village in the park. Rather than face the possibility of more cuts, this time in a sensitive area, eminent domain allows us to protect the park for the public and pay him full market value for his rights."

OSPR has contracted with a timber cruiser to estimate the value of the remaining timber by the end of the month, and are updating their 2002 estimate. Either figure could serve as the basis for negotiating a final price with Smejkal.

Bear Creek Run/Walk From page 1

are welcome in the 5K event which follows the path from Anderson Park to Vernonia Lake and back.

Proceeds benefit the Vernonia Cares Food Bank, a good excuse to enjoy some exercise and scenery.

Community Calendar

AUGUST 2007							SEPTEMBER 2007							OCTOBER 2007						
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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
26	27	28	29	30	31		30													

VERNONIA			MIST-BIRKENFELD			BANKS			COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays & Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue	M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library	M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post	Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall	County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin	M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13	County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church	M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library	Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	6:30 p.m., City Hall	M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Planning Commission	1st Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall	Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018	Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks School Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081	T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station			
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station			
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-4250				CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station			
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library				Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station			
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2		For Info Call 503-819-0143				Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station			
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall				Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station			
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193				T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station			
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant						7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.			
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall									
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.									
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713									
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	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	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 Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VLC									
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	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									

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.