



The young people in Vernonia immediately began enjoying the new Squeaky Wheels Skateboard and Bike Park. The park is currently in a temporary location by the high school. The new park, sponsored by the Vernonia Lions Club, was dedicated on July 4.

Oregon Zoo raises 2nd Tuesday price

Beginning July 13, the admission price for the Oregon Zoo's popular Second Tuesday discount program went from \$2 to \$4. Children 2 and under will continue to be admitted free.

The zoo began its reduced-admission program in 2004, offering discounted tickets on the second Tuesday of each month. The nominal increase will help relieve budgetary pressures brought about by a slow economy. The zoo continues to welcome record numbers of visitors, officials say, but guests have not been spending as much as they have in previous years.

The Second Tuesday pro-

gram aims to make the zoo accessible to as many people as possible, zoo officials say.

"We remain committed to providing a reduced admission program," said Kim Smith, Oregon Zoo director. "Unfortunately, the economic times we live in are having an unprecedented impact on our budget. We are dedicated to providing excellent animal care and continually seek ways to improve our guests' experience."

"We want to encourage environmental stewardship by getting people out of their cars," Smith said. "And if people take a TriMet bus or MAX to the zoo, they can take an additional

\$1.50 off their \$4 admission. Getting into the zoo for \$2.50, while helping the environment is a win-win."

Other zoo values that are not limited to the second Tuesday of each month include a 20 percent discount on admission and train rates for any group of 20 or more paying visitors, when one payment is made for the entire purchase. School group rates, with advance reservations, are available for \$3 per student. Zoo membership rates begin at \$49, which includes unlimited year-round admission.

The zoo's Second Tuesday
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Wash. Co. volunteer opportunity

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recommendations to the Board on comprehensive plan and community development ordinances. The length of term is four years. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The application deadline is

August 17, or when all vacancies are filled. Applications may be obtained by visiting the website or by calling 503-846-8685. Descriptions of all the boards can also be found on the County's Boards and Commissions website at www.co.washington.or.us

Paint "take-back" program starts

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has approved a plan that sets in motion the first paint product stewardship "take-back" program in the nation. The PaintCare program, which officially begins July 1 and is funded by paint manufacturers, allows consumers to return unused paint to participating retailers and other sites for proper disposal. The pilot program is expected to collect as much as 600,000 gallons of leftover paint annually in Oregon, and is expected to be rolled out nationally.

The program stems from the Oregon Paint Product Stewardship law, passed by the 2009 Oregon Legislature. The law directed manufacturers of paints sold in Oregon to set up and run "a convenient, statewide system" for the collection of post-consumer latex and oil-based paint. The new program is the result of a national agreement facilitated by the non-profit Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (PSI), which convened paint manufacturers, retailers, contractors, recyclers and government officials to jointly develop an environmentally sound and economically efficient solution to the leftover paint problem.

The American Coatings Association, a trade organization for paint manufacturers, created the non-profit organization PaintCare to administer the program. Consumers will pay for the program by paying a surcharge on paint and stain containers. PaintCare, in turn, will provide a series of depots statewide where people can drop off unused paint. PaintCare pays an administrative fee to DEQ (\$10,000 for submittal of the program plan and \$10,000 annually thereafter) on behalf of manufacturers for plan approval and program enforcement/oversight.

"The paint industry has committed to properly managing leftover paint in Oregon, and we are ready to step up and assume that responsibility," said Alison Keane, Counsel for the American Coating Association. "We appreciate being able to work with DEQ and PSI to bring significant environmental and financial benefits to communities around Oregon."

"Getting this law passed took a tremendous amount of cooperation from industry, government, and other stakeholders, and it is exciting to see all the hard work finally pay off," said Scott Cassel, Executive Director of the Product Stewardship Institute. "Oregon DEQ had clear goals in mind and persistently worked with the paint industry to develop a viable plan."

Vernonia Hardware and Supply, 1026 Bridge St, Vernonia, is a participating "take-back" location. The complete, approved Oregon Paint Stewardship Pilot Program Plan is available on DEQ's paint product stewardship webpage at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/prodstewardship/paint.htm>. The page also lists participating retailers and brands in the PaintCare program. For more information about the paint industry's PaintCare program, including drop-off locations for the Oregon program, go to the PaintCare website at: www.paintcare.org.



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831 Bridge St.
Vernonia, OR
503-429-0214

State Farm®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

Bunny Girt, Agent

1229 N. Adair
PO Box 543
Cornelius, OR 97113-0543
Bus 503-357-3131 Fax 503-357-9667
bunny.girt.b71g@statefarm.com

