

Refresher course in Banks for adult drivers

Banks drivers with clean records could trim their auto insurance premiums and become better drivers by taking a safe driving course.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is a key element in efforts to support "livable communities" that ensure, enhance, and sustain mobility and housing options, enabling people age 50 and older to remain in their homes. As the number of older drivers swells during the next few decades, the AARP Driver Safety Program will be there to help individuals keep

their driving competencies as long as possible.

As opposed to younger drivers, whose typical violations include speeding, reckless driving, and DWI offenses, older drivers' typical infractions include failure to yield the right-of-way, improper turning, and incorrect lane changing. Generally, older drivers have problems in driving situations that require quick responses, full vision, and interaction with other drivers. So the program teaches participants how to adjust their driving in response to

those changes.

If interested in becoming a defensive driver, Banks Fire District is hosting a class August 18-19, 2010. This is an 8-hour course that is taught over two days, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day. Call Banks Fire District at 503-324-6262 to register. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Payment is to be made at the door. Participants must take both portions to receive a certificate. Class size is limited to 24.

City over budget, starts new expense process

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meeting as a sub-committee of the Economic Development Committee. Although no public testimony was planned for the July 19 meeting, council allowed Willow Burch, a Downtown Association member and business owner, to speak. As a result of Burch's concerns, the language in the sign ordinance was amended to allow use of internal illumination restricted to "indirect halo", "push-through" or *substantially similar* illumination techniques (italics used to indicate the language changed during the meeting). The sign ordinance was then unanimously approved and will take affect 30 days from July 19.

Councilor Kevin Hudson read a memo (on July 19) from the Ad Hoc Budget Committee stating that in week two of the budget year, the city is already over budget and, as a result, the committee proposed a 90-

day emergency procedure. New handling will include any expenditure over \$100 being approved by the Financial Administrator before the money is spent and any proposed expenditure of over \$1000 must go before council, accompanied by an evaluation report, for approval. At the August 2 meeting, two reports were presented by Haack for expenses over \$1000. Both were for items that had been included in the budget and council approved the expenditures.

At the August 16 meeting, Council will be looking at a proposal by Police Chief Frank Grace to institute a "Fix-It-Ticket" and parking ticket program that would allow for some tickets to be dropped if the item is taken care of and a \$25 fee paid. Some tickets, such as failure to have windshield wipers, can cost \$215. Under the proposal, if the windshield wipers were installed in a timely manner, the ticket could be removed with the payment of \$25. The \$25 would be split 50/50 between the City and the Justice Court.

In other business, council:

- Heard from a resident near Ora Bolmeier Park who continues to have concerns about dead trees in the park. At the August 2 meeting, Haack told council that he had an arborist look at the trees and is waiting for the final report to present some options;
- voted to allow D.A.D.'s Re-

cycling an extension to October 31 to get relocated;

- appointed Tim Bero to represent the City on the Columbia County Economic Team;

- heard that James Baraibar has resigned from the Planning Commission, citing job obligations as the reason;

- was told that ODOT will require the "Vernonia is Down Here" sign to be removed, sometime in the next few months, from its current location by Staley's Junction, now that the state owns that land;

- heard that City Hall will close at 2:00 p.m. tomorrow, August 6, to allow employees to participate in Jamboree.

The next regular meeting of the council will be at 7:00 p.m. on August 16 at city hall.

Buying a home? Be sure any uncertified woodstove is out

Oregon's new woodstove law designed to protect homebuyers and clear the air of unnecessary wood smoke pollution took effect on August 1. The law requires the removal and decommissioning of any uncertified woodstove or fireplace insert from a home when it is sold.

In 1986, when Oregon first passed a law requiring emissions certification to control smoke from these devices, woodstoves produced approximately 70 percent more pollution and burned wood far less efficiently than today's newer, cleaner certified woodstoves.

Oregon is the first state to formally establish a woodstove change out requirement upon the sale of a home. It was also the first state to adopt wood-

stove certification and emission limits. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency later adopted and implemented this certification nationwide.

"Wintertime residential wood burning is a significant source of air pollution, including fine particles and air toxics," said Rachel Sakata, project manager for DEQ's Heat Smart program. "Removing uncertified woodstoves from service and replacing them with more efficient models would help Oregon's efforts to restore and preserve healthy air and reduce heating costs."

For more information about the requirements for uncertified woodstoves visit: www.deq.state.or.us/aaq/burning/woodstoves/heatSmart.htm.

County employment little changed

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.7 percent in June, essentially the same as the previous month (11.9%) but lower than the year before (13.7%). The rate was above the statewide rate (10.5%) and the national rate (9.5%). Total

employment inched up by 19 to 21,467 but the number of unemployed people rose by 54 to 2,880. Total employment this June was 17 more than one year before and there were 556 fewer people unemployed this year.

KEEP JAMBOREE SAFE

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Fire regulations

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proximately 8 inches wide.

6. Fireworks are prohibited.
7. Cutting and welding of metal is prohibited.

Current information on local fire season regulations can be obtained by calling the Columbia City ODF office at 503-397-2636, Forest ODF at 503-357-2191, or your local fire district. Vernonia, 503-429-8252; Mist-Birkenfeld, 503-755-2710; Banks, 503-324-6262.

VERNONIA'S BIGGEST CLASS REUNION

Sunday, August 15th - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Prizes ~ entertainment ~ Tours ~ Food ~ Fun

\$5.00 Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. at the School cafeteria
Food & Drinks will be available for purchase

Please RSVP by July 15th to: VernoniasReunion@yahoo.com
Or mail to; Vernonia's Biggest Reunion c/o Vernonia School District Office
475 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064

For more information visit www.VernoniaClassmates.com or our Facebook Group, Alumni & Friends of Vernonia Schools ~ Vernonia's Biggest Reunion

Tax Deductible Donations may be made at www.vernonia.k12.or.us or at Wauna Federal Credit Union – Vernonia Education Foundation/Alumni Funds
This is a fund raiser for our new schools.