

24 Years Ago This Month

The May 28, 1987, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on the front page:

Vernonia's City Council continued work on upgrading of city parks during their meetings in May, approving the use of heavy equipment (obtained on a volunteer basis by Jim Morrison) at Spencer Park to complete the groundwork and stump removal needed for youth baseball; approving additional expenditures of up to \$275 for paint, gates, siding

and miscellaneous materials needed to finish the horse arena in Anderson Park; discussed fencing for the swimming pool area at Hawkins Park, and approved major changes for Anderson Park.

Caretakers at Anderson Park will be a thing of the past, starting July 1, as the council approved elimination of the position and the caretaker's mobile home. They also approved installation of 5 lights in the park, plus lights at the entrances to the park restrooms. Noting that the chamber of

commerce has been granted permission to put the city's old street lights up in Anderson Park, the council agreed to see what progress has been made on that project before putting up new lights.

The council also thanked Jim and Kathy Morrison for obtaining the heavy equipment and work crew for Spencer Park's ball fields, noting that the Morrises "got done in 2 days what it would have taken the city 3 months to do."

Boaters: Prevent invasive species spread

When launching your boat this season, you'll likely see signage aimed at educating boaters about how to prevent aquatic invasive species from spreading or gaining a foothold in Oregon's beloved waterways.

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation that created a self-supporting aquatic invasive species prevention program, geared toward boaters who have watercraft 10 feet long or longer. The program is designed to educate boaters about the threat of aquatic invasive species and what boaters can do to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species that are already in Oregon, like the New Zealand mud snail. Revenue generated by the permit fee is used for inspection/detection, decontamination, and education efforts.

Registered motorboats pay a surcharge in addition to their boat registration fee. A current registration decal affixed to the bow of the boat acts as proof of payment into the program. Manually powered boats 10 feet long and longer (paddlecraft) are required to purchase a permit and carry it with them when operating their watercraft.

In January, the Oregon State Marine Board approved more purchasing options for manually-powered boats, based on feedback from this boating community and marine law en-

forcement.

The Marine Board approved both a one-year and two-year Tyvek tag. These tags are available for purchase through the Marine Board's office in Salem and can also be ordered by downloading a permit application online at http://www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/Clean/docs/Boating_public_order_form_2011.pdf.

Boaters can purchase as many permits as they like from one application form. Once the form is downloaded and filled out, mail the application to the Marine Board at P.O. Box 14145, Salem, OR 97309. Permits expire on December 31 of the current year for the one year permit or December 31 of 2012, depending on which permit is purchased.

"What's nice about purchasing your AIS permit through the Marine Board is boaters aren't charged a processing fee," said Glenn Dolphin, Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program Coordinator for the Marine Board. "It's \$5 for a one year permit and \$10 for two years. Funds are used for the aquatic invasive species prevention program designed to protect our waterways from being taken over by non-native species."

One-year paper permits can also be purchased from ODFW license agents or online at www.dfw.state.or.us for \$7.

Boat inspection stations are

also gearing up at boat launches and rest areas across Oregon in May and June. Travelers entering the state are asked to look for "Boat Inspection Ahead" signs and be prepared to pull off the highway for inspection. An inspection takes about 10 minutes if boats are free of aquatic species. If a boat is found to be contaminated with aquatic invaders, it will be cleaned by a mobile decontamination team.

For more information about the aquatic invasive species prevention permit program or for directions to the Marine Board office, visit www.boatoregon.com.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



What am I doing today? After having heard what Sally talked about last Wednesday afternoon at the Vernonia Senior Center and then seeing and listening to Channel 2 Thursday evening, I am trying to re-group my thoughts. So, I'm sitting at my table, feet propped on a chair, munching a tuna fish sandwich, watching a bushy-tailed squirrel frolic on a backyard fence across the street from my patio window. (Got the picture?) I could tell you what I think but since I do not live there or vote there anymore I will keep my thought to myself and pray that what is left of the City Council has enough power and help from the informed citizenry to stop the disaster that will happen if it isn't cleared up and stopped. Stop and realize what will happen to the "City" of Vernonia if you don't keep the "Key" to all of the projects in the fire that is trying to keep Vernonia on the map for its upcoming spirit to live despite the floods that have tried to wipe you OUT.

Now for the brighter side of the news. Jim (son), being kind hearted, decided to "leash" train his house cat, so we could let it out in the fresh air once in a while. OK. So she accepted the harness. In the house she's a calm cat. Outside she's a "Fraidy Cat." She does love it out there in the dirt and tree roots. So, now she sits in front of the closed front door and yowls her head off. Guess who has to hook her up and stroll in the dirt now? Shadow isn't too keen on the idea of my paying attention to the CAT. Ho, ho.

Sorry I flipped my lid, but I do care what happens in the Little Town Lost in the Woods. I have many friends there.

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