

Vernonia council told law on golf carts February job rate remains flat

The March 19 Vernonia City Council meeting started with a public hearing and decision on new water rates (see article on page 1).

The council heard a presentation by Sean McGilloway, of ISoutsources, who provides computer IT services. The city has been having trouble with one of their servers and McGilloway has determined it is failing. ISoutsources will replace the existing servers with two upgraded servers, one always running and one for backup. Costs are expected to be around \$16,000 for hardware, licensing, and labor. The plan met with council's approval and will be started as soon as hardware is chosen.

Mayor Josette Mitchell accepted resignations from Carol Davis, Janelle Cedergreen and Jill Hult, all on the Vernonia Community Learning Center

(VCLC) Committee. Each left stating concerns about having no dedicated city staff to help run the VCLC and improve the usage of this building. Mitchell included her thanks to these citizen volunteers for their service.

Council had asked Police Chief Michael Conner to look into the use of golf carts on city streets. Conner reported that golf carts can be used only with an ODOT permit and only on roads with speed limits no higher than 25 mph. They also can not be used to tow trailers. The police will be making contact with golf cart users to educate them about these laws and to work with them on permitting requirements. The ORS laws that apply are 801.331, 807.210, and 807.010.

In other business, council:
 • Approved a new IGA (Inter-governmental Agreement) with

the school district related to the demolition of the old schools.

• Were informed that the position of mayor, and the council positions held by Randy Parrow and Kim Tierney will be up for new terms in the November 6 General Election. Anyone wishing to run for these offices can file their intention between May 30 and August 28.

• Set a Work Session/Special Meeting, for March 26, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall to discuss the IGA with the school district and new Spencer Park. They also agreed to hold a Work Session to discuss open spaces and the FEMA buyout process, on March 31 from 1-3 p.m., location not yet determined.

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting will be April 2, at 7:00 p.m., at city hall.

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.7 percent in January essentially unchanged from the previous month (9.9%) but lower than the year before (11.9%). The rate was higher than the statewide rate (8.8%) and the national rate (8.3%).

Total employment dropped by 213 to 22,294 and the number of unemployed people rose by 225 to 2,606. Total employment this January was 444 more than one year before and there were 443 fewer people unemployed this year.

Vernonia City Update

Theft at demolition sites is a crime

by Bill Haack, Vernonia City Administrator

The City of Vernonia has been informed that Custom Excavating and Trails End Recovery will no longer allow people to salvage materials from the houses and businesses that they are demolishing.

This decision comes as a result of people in the community who are trespassing and removing materials from the

buildings without permission and leaving them in unstable condition, which increases their cost to demolish.

The City will now provide oversight to these properties, strictly enforcing trespass and theft charges against individuals found to be on the property without permission and who may also be found to be in possession of materials salvaged from these same sites.

Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays (Big Book Study)	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street
American Legion Post #119	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
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	6:30 p.m., Library
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018
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 503-429-4250
Emerg. Preparedness Comm.	4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., WOEC
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2		For Info Call 503-819-0143
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Kiwanis Club	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Municipal Airport Committee	1st Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Grange
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	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Garden Club	2nd Tuesday	1:30 p.m., Vernonia Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	3rd Thursday	6:30 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Comm. Learning Center	1st Wednesday	5:00 p.m., VCLC
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	6:00 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	10:00 a.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Tuesday	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	9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Friday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesday	7:00 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 Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
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	Sunday, Wednesday	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
Everybody's Hometown Band	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., BHS Music Room
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.	Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesday	10:00 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia 9-1-1 Board	3rd Thursday	9:00 a.m., 9-1-1 meeting room
Columbia Comm Mental Health	1st Tuesday	5:30 p.m., 58646 McNulty Way
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	2nd Thursday	4:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211