

Dewey Pool is now a Drug Free Zone *Jobs rate was flat again in May*

Starting at 6:00 p.m., then working for an hour reviewing and preparing to prioritize a large list of possible and actual city projects, the Vernonia City Council went into their regular meeting with a light agenda.

A new Ordinance, 882, was presented to council for consideration. 882 repeals Ordinance 860 which prohibited tobacco use at the Hawkins Park swimming area. Ord. 882 establishes the area as a Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco (including nicotine delivery products) Free Zone. The ordinance was presented as "Declaring an Emergency" so it could go into effect immediately, but the need for that declaration was questioned and not included when Councilor Kim Tierney moved to approve the ordinance. The motion passed so, Ordinance 860 remains in place until Ord. 882 takes effect in 30 days.

Chief of Police Mike Conner told council that the two newest police officers, Thompson and Brady, are on the verge of completing their Vernonia specific training and will soon be ready to patrol alone. Conner also said that he and Officer Thompson (who lives in Vernonia) will be the only ones taking police cars home after Jamboree. Currently, everyone on the force takes home a car; two to North Plains, one to Scappoose, and one in Vernonia.

City Administrator Bill Haack reported to council that the Lion's Club received a \$34,870 grant from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) that will allow for guard rails on the existing fishing docks at Vernonia Lake. It also allows for one of the dock's pontoons to be replaced with a used one from ODFW. The Lion's Club had sought enough funding to

build another dock, but the amount needed for that was not granted.

Haack also reported on a recent meeting (June 15) of the Regional Solution Team where the city's wastewater treatment plant upgrade was discussed. At the meeting, Haack was told that the existing DEQ loan amount may be increased to cover the new project with the additional amount at today's interest rate (lower than the existing interest rate).

After an executive session (closed to the public) held to "carry on labor negotiations", the council authorized Mayor Josette Mitchell to sign the presented collective bargaining agreement which runs for the next three years.

In other business, council;
 • approved All In Pub and Eatery's request for a beer garden
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Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.4 percent in May, essentially unchanged from the previous month (9.3%), but lower than the year before (10.3%). The rate was higher than the statewide rate (8.4%) and the national rate (8.2%). Total employment rose by 120 to 22,670 and the number of unemployed people fell by 47

to 2,260. Total employment this May was 452 more than one year before and there were 173 fewer people unemployed this year.

By comparison, The Portland metro area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.0 percent in May, unchanged from April. The year-ago rate was 9.0 percent.

Pet safety tips for use on July 4

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rect identification and tags just in case he or she becomes scared and runs away from home.

Be careful with 4th of July decorations. Remember that your pet may easily mistake your red, white and blue decorations and glow sticks as chew toys. Make sure to pet-proof

your home and keep fun decorations out of paws reach.

Think about a vet visit. If you know that your dog or cat is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4th for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.

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., WGS 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
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	1t 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 Comm. Learning Center	1st Wednesday	5:00 p.m., VCLC
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 Library Board	1st Wednesday	9:00 a.m., Sept-June, Library
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.	3rd 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.
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

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.