

Vernonia Eagle

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VERNONIA WEATHER

As gathered from the weather station located at the Vernonia water plant.

Weather in Vernonia was a bit chilly for the week of January 2 to January 8 with a maximum high on January 2 of 38 degrees while the low of five degrees fell on Sunday, January 6. Rainfall for the week—zero.

Police Issue Warnings On Parking, Gas

The Vernonia Police Department has issued a warning that those parking on the wrong side of the street in order to obtain gasoline are in violation of the law and will be cited for illegal parking by the department, according to Chief of Police Jack Cunningham.

"Parking in such a manner is illegal," said Cunningham, adding, "and it is potentially dangerous to other drivers on the road."

He also stated, "we are having some problems with people stealing gas and this will be dealt with severely if it continues. Any one caught taking gasoline will be jailed."

The warning stems from a situation which occurred January 2 when ten gallons of gasoline was taken from the tank of the Vernonia Fire Department rescue truck.

"That truck carries all our breathing apparatus and other emergency equipment necessary when we go out to a fire," said Vernonia Fire Chief Don Webb. "Without it we can't do our job."

"Not only that," he continued, "but it would be a tragic situation if someone lost their home or even their life because someone else was selfish enough to steal gasoline from a fire truck."

"If anyone steals gas from an emergency vehicle," Chief Cunningham added, "it could mean the difference between saving a life or being helpless while someone dies. No one needs gas that badly."

Stealing gasoline especially now may seem like no more than a prank to some but it is a serious matter especially now. So serious that the law provides that anyone convicted of the misdemeanor charge could serve up to six months in jail and or pay a fine of up to \$1000.

Chief Cunningham concluded, "everyone is feeling the pinch of the gas shortage but stealing is no way to solve your problem. That will only lead to more trouble for all of us."

Goodwill Truck Due Wednesday, Feb. 20

The Goodwill truck will be in the Vernonia area Wednesday, February 20 to pick up all repairable items from home or place of business.

Those wishing to contribute to the Goodwill may do so by calling the Vernonia representative, Mrs. Cora Lange, 429-3421.

Residents Of East Vernonia Sewer District Get Go Ahead On Hook Up

The Vernonia City Council met in regular session Monday night, January 7 for the first meeting of the new year. Attending were Mayor Sherman Fisher, Councilmen C.E. Miller, Lucille Tomlin Bud Atkins and David Banta with attorney Alan Coon also present.

Following approval of the minutes Pat Fennell, of Davis Sanitary Service, took the floor to inform the council that he could no longer guarantee service due to the gasoline shortage and queried the group on the possibility of opening the Vernonia city dump as an emergency measure. David Banta and Bud Atkins are to check into this.

Mrs. Henry Anderegg then requested permission for installation of an Air Hockey coin operated game at the Alpine Lanes. After discussion it was decided to turn the matter over to Police Commissioner Tomlin and Chief Cunningham for investigation.

Following Mrs. Anderegg, Bob Hall presented a letter to the

council in reference to sewer and water hookup outside city limits on his property on Pebble Creek. Council will give him an answer following their meeting with the engineer in February.

Committee reports were then read followed by communications. Letters from Robert E. Meyers, Engineers, were read discussing the flooding in the Riverview area, after a meeting with county, state and council officials December 19. Cost and drainage work were commented upon. Also a letter on estimated costs for extending the Pebble Creek sewer outside the city limits to Bob Hall's property.

Residents of the East Vernonia Sewer District are advised they may now hook up to the sewer. For further information contact Wm. Nelson, 429-5291 at the Vernonia City Hall.

A letter from the Oregon State Highway Division stated that they did not feel—after investigation—that a flashing signal was needed at the Bridge St.-Texas Avenue intersection for school children but one might be needed in front of Washington

Grade School.

Burlington Northern Railroad informed the council, via letter, that the section of railroad from Banks to Vernonia had been sold to Orth Industries in California and that further communication should be through them.

Under uninitiated business attorney Alan Coon reported on the progress of the two law suits pending against the city, informing them that the charter suit was now being studied by the judge.

The council will hold a committee meeting February 16 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the zoning map.

The council agreed to deposit \$45,000 to the Sewer Bond Fund and to deposit \$11,056 to the Revenue Sharing Fund.

It was also agreed—contingent on gas and money being available—that Chief of Police Jack Cunningham be allowed to attend police training school in Astoria February 16-18.

Following payment of bills the meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m. The next meeting of the city council will be Monday, January 21 at 8 p.m. in the city hall.



SCENES like these last week at local service stations have caused Vernonia area dealers to implement a plan to halt traffic jams and long waiting for gas. Cars were strung out down main street and around the corners on the flanking side streets creating a big problem for the VPD who have announced they will issue citations for those illegally parking on the wrong side of the street.



VERNONIA Fire Chief Don Webb points to the safe type of container to use when storing gasoline. It is red, metal and has a tight seal on both top and pouring spout. Next to it is a plastic jar, — the type which should never be used for such storage.

Gasoline Dealers Agree On Days, Hours of Service

Vernonia gasoline station operators met Saturday night, January 5 at the home of Bob Thompson to discuss the problems of the present gasoline shortage and to endeavor to find a feasible way to solve them.

Wally Grosche, Dave Ruehman, and Rudy Soders attended the meeting and a decision was reached on applying an every other day rule to the situation. Ralph Sturdevant was unable to attend due to illness.

The plan is simple. All stations will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m., until each day's allocation of gas is used. Stations will be closed to gasoline purchasers both Saturday and Sunday. However, most will still operate service departments as usual.

Alcohol Council Will Meet January 16-17

The Columbia County Council on Alcohol will host a two-day visitation at the Village Inn in St. Helens on January 16 and 17. Featured speakers at the 7:30 p.m. meeting on January 17 will be Kim Duncan and Norma Taylor from OAHA (Oregon Alcoholism and Health Association).

Duncan and Taylor will focus on three major areas of council concern. 1. Steps that a council needs to institute in order to establish an information and referral center which will be volunteer staffed; 2. Establishment of an education package to be used in the community by the volunteers; and 3. Establishment of a membership drive to develop the resources necessary to carry out the preceding objectives.

Duncan, Taylor, and Rev. Paulson will be making visitations to council members and interested parties in the community during the two days as well.

Those wishing further information, may obtain it from Rev. C.R. Paulson of St. Helens.

Times and days apply only to gasoline sales.

Although Governor Tom McCall's rationing plan is expected to go into effect next Monday, station owners in the area have decided to continue with their present program of operation due to the unique problems in Vernonia.

"We're trying to do the best we can with the gasoline we're getting," said one operator, adding, "we hope by implementing this plan, the long lines of traffic will be alleviated and everyone will get a chance to get gas without waiting for any length of time."

Another dealer added his comments. "A lot of people don't realize that we have to take our month's quota—which is lower because of last year's bad weather—and divide it by the days we're open so we'll have enough gasoline to last out the month. And people get scared. Afraid they'll be stranded. But there isn't any reason to panic. If everyone cooperates, we should be okay."

Schools Get Added Funds

Oregon school districts will receive an additional \$27 million in basic school support funds for 1974-75, Supt. of Public Instruction Dale Parnell said recently.

A total of \$170 million in state funds for elementary-secondary education has been estimated for 1974-75, compared with the current year estimate of \$143 million. It is estimated that Columbia County will receive \$2,933,969.66 for the 1974-75 year. Estimate for 1973-74 was \$2,559,338.32.

Because these estimated figures are available to districts early—January compared with mid-March in previous years—the school districts will be able to have a more meaningful base to begin the budget process, Parnell said.

County Gets New One Stop Building Permit System

Building permits will be easier to get in Columbia County since a new one-stop system has been instituted for applying for applications.

Now, instead of going from office to office to get a building permit, septic tank permit, etc., applicants may apply for the seven different types of permit on one form and in a single location.

Permits to be granted under this system include land use; land use-sign; preliminary lot inspection (prior to sale); building site lot inspection (for septic tanks); building permits including septic tanks; access permits (dealing with the road department); and precover inspections (for septic systems).

The permit application seeks—in addition to basic information about the applicant and location—the tax account number, lot size, name of legal access road, zoning district, the planned use, setbacks and details about the water supply. In addition the application also requires the name of the contractor, sub-contractors, plumbing contractor, lender and details about when the site will be ready for inspection.

Officials of Columbia County feel that this consolidation of the various permits will aid prospective builders to obtain their permits with less confusion than in the past.



MILLIONS of one-year-old plug seedlings, grown in plastic container trays at Crown Zellerbach's Wood Nursery near Aurora, Oregon, will be planted in February and March in an expanded Northwest timberlands reforestation program.

Areas to be planted included CZ managed forests near Molalla, Vernonia, Tillamook, and Seaside in Oregon, and near Cathlamet, Port Townsend, and Sekiu, Washington.

Ambulance Fund Gets Surprise Donation

The Vernonia Ambulance fund has received many contributions lately but none more surprising than the check that came from a lady in Denver, Colorado with the enclosed note.

"In case you are puzzled—we do own property there—and also have family in the area, so felt we should also make a contribution."

With the aid of such generous people it is hoped that some time in the near future it will be possible to purchase the defibrillator and other necessary equipment for the Vernonia Trauma unit.

Home Storage of Gasoline Potentially Lethal Practice

The present fuel shortage has grown to crisis proportions as allocations are cut back to station operators and fuel oil distributors, causing many to begin the dangerous—and-potentially lethal—stockpiling of gasoline, according to the Vernonia Volunteer Fire Department.

As the Fire Prevention Bureau's data reveals, one gallon of gasoline has the explosive power of approximately 14 sticks of dynamite—which renders it a potential liquid bomb, even in the hands of those familiar with its properties.

Vernonia Fire Chief, Don Webb points out "if you feel you must stockpile gasoline, please do it in a safe manner and always let common sense prevail." For storing gasoline at home, he advises, "use an approved safety can—never a glass jug, discarded plastic bleach bottle or other makeshift container. A container for gas MUST be metal and labeled as to the true contents and should be red in color. Don't fill any container with gasoline that doesn't meet these standards," he adds.

"Gasoline should be stored in a well-ventilated area where it can't be tipped over or damaged accidentally and always kept out of the reach of small children. It should never be stored in the same room with a hot water heater or a furnace where a pilot light or sparking switch could set off an explosion of accumulated vapors. Any smell of gasoline in a storage room or an automobile trunk is a good indication that there is a vapor leak in the container.

Carrying extra gasoline in the trunk of a car also creates a dangerous explosive situation," points out Webb. "Gasoline vapors can filter from the trunk into the car's interior where the striking of a match or a spark from the electrical system could set off a powerful explosion which could prove fatal."

The Vernonia Fire Chief stated further, "if it is absolutely necessary that spare gasoline be carried on the road, always use a

metal can that is vapor tight. Use a container with perfect seals on both cap and pouring spout—not a safety can that is designed to vent vapors. Also, never fill the container completely. Leave a little room for the gasoline to expand as it is warmed by the heat of the day and the auto."

While the storage of gasoline is an unsafe situation, it is not the only problem arising from the energy crisis. The Vernonia Fire Department also stresses the potential dangers involved in increased usage of fireplaces and other methods of heating.

Wood, coal and cast iron stoves are becoming more popular and all can be a trouble spot if proper precautions are not carried out. "Cast iron stoves especially can be dangerous," Webb comments. "If they become overheated and without proper adjusting of the flue, they can blow up. Also, many of today's modern homes are not equipped to handle a wood or coal burning stove since they don't have the proper type of chimney or vent pipe."

Fireplace owners should check for proper clearance between the fireplace and combustible materials. The screen should also be checked to ensure that it is in good shape and fits properly."

As a last safety pointer, the Vernonia Fire Department strongly recommends that each family have an approved all-purpose fire extinguisher handy at all times.

Defibrillator To Be Demonstrated

A defibrillator machine will be demonstrated at the Chamber meeting Monday evening January 14 at 8 p.m. in the West Oregon Electric meeting room. The public is invited to attend this interesting demonstration of the machine used to correct erratic heart beats in cardiac patients.

Funds for the purchase of the defibrillator are being raised with donations by Vernonia area citizens.