



The Echo



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PO Box 9/20 S Bonanza (541)376-8411



Census

After all the publicity and promotion of the Census, we have discovered most Echo residents will not be getting the census in the mail. Only the few people who receive deliveries via the rural route carrier will get their form in the mail.

You can go to Agape House, the Hermiston Senior Center or Stanfield Senior Center and pickup a form. We are trying to get the forms to distribute at the library or city hall, but do not know yet if this will be approved. The Census Bureau says that if you have not received a form by April 12 you can call 1-866-872-6868 and request a form.

If you have not returned a completed form by April 28 you will go on the list for a Census Bureau worker to visit your home.

The Stanfield Senior Center will be open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. The Hermiston Senior Center is open Tues & Wed. from 9 am to 1 pm. The Hermiston Senior Center is located at 435 Orchard.

The Census website is 2010.census.gov.

Main St. and some of the Whiskey Barrell and aggregate planters will go the the RV Park and Skatepark.

AIB judges will visit town on June 2 and 3rd and the formal dedication of the Skatepark & will be combined with a reception for the judges on June 2. This is an opportunity for the judges to meet area residents and put a face to names they will have seen in our entry package.

If you have ideas for AIB projects or would like to make a donation, contact Diane at city hall, 541-376-8411.



RR Crossing Closures

The railroad will have the Main St. Crossing Closed Monday, April 5 & Dupont St. Crossing closed on Wed. April 7 from 7 am to 5 pm to do crossing repairs. **Warning:** Semis & Farm Truck do not use the Dupont Street Crossing while Main St. is closed. At least 2 trucks have gotten stuck on this crossing over the years and one was hit by a train.

America in Bloom 2010

The annual America in Bloom Program for 2010 is getting underway so it is time to ask for donations to help with the program. The first donation of the year is from Power Pro Electric for \$100. Among projects slated for this year are landscaping the Skatepark and a sign for the Vintage Farm Equipment at the entry to town. A few new concrete planters were purchased last fall for

Arbor Day

The city will celebrate 21 years as a Tree City USA with an Arbor Day Celebration in the City Park on **Thursday, April 15 at 12:30 pm**. Pendleton Magician Mark Mullins will perform during the celebration and Echo Elementary students will attend and help with the celebration.

A new Sycamore tree



will be planted to replace the Arnie Neely Memorial Tree that was damaged by a vandal last summer. Everyone is invited to attend and help plant the tree.



There will be door prizes including a few trees and Arbor Day/Tree items.

There will be “door” prizes and a few prizes will be awarded to children who win a Tree Trivia contest. One hundred bare root trees will be given away along with seeds and balloons. The seed packets are a kick-off for this years America in Bloom Program.

Tera Longhorn is baking and decorating a cake for the ceremony which will be served along with punch.

My Sister's Keeper



The Echo Book Club is reading My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Piccolt for April. Jennifer Cox, book club organizer has extra copies available. Anyone interested in reading the book before the next meeting can obtain a copy by contacting her by phone (541-376-8646) or email (Jennifer.Cox@hermiston.k12.or.us).

. The club's April meeting will be at the Library on Wed. April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Yard Debris

Yard Debris such as limbs, grass and leaves can be hauled to the transfer station and will be accepted free of charge year round if you are a customer and obtain a copy of a debris slip from city hall. The City of Stanfield will also allow clean yard debris and limbs to be deposited at their composting site. Take Coe Street to Hoosier Lane and turn right.



Community Garden

Despite the poor economy many nurseries did well last year because of the increase in the number of people who decided to start a garden and grow their own fruits and vegetables.

Programs to promote development of community gardens are popping up all over the country. The American Community Gardening Association (CG) lists six community gardens in Oregon most of which have been started in the last few years: in Oakridge, Bend, Zig Zag, Wood Village, Madras and Peace Garden in Portland; There are an additional 32 Community Gardens in Portland alone and they even have a Community Garden Toolkit on the Portland CG webpage. There are many other Oregon Community gar-



Coleen's A Cut Above

Come in & take a look at the new & improved shop. We have expanded & remodeled.

A **Second Chair**: introducing Jessica White who will be a full time stylist. **New Services: eyebrow waxing & facials.**

Tanning Room

Sunvision Elite 20 min. bed
Unlimited Monthly \$35
10 tans—\$40
Single tan—\$5

New Hours:

Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10 am-6 pm
Thurs. 9 am-4 pm



dens including ones in Salem and Ashland. In 2008 the Oregon State University Extension Service even provided grants to start gardens in Cottage Grove, McMinnville, Astoria, Tillamook, Roseburg and Philomath



If you would like Echo to develop a community garden, Allison Anne Arnold (aarnold2@oregon.edu) with Columbia Blue Mountain RC & D will be helping to organize the effort. She has set up a meeting on **April 6 at 7 pm at city hall**. Everyone who might be interested is invited to attend the organizational meeting.

The garden in Oakridge was founded in 2006 on a 2 acre plot and is divided into permanent infrastructure and personal plots. They have planted pear, plums, cherries, apples, Asian pears, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, a grape vine and native shrubs and wildflowers.

Spring Clean-up

It is time to haul off all of the debris that has accumulated over the last year. The annual Sanitary Disposal Spring Cleanup week is scheduled from April 1 through April 7. During this week, **cash** customers using the Sanitary Disposal Transfer Station will receive up to a \$12.50 discount off of each load.

This means loads measuring 2.5 cubic yards with a maximum weight of 454.5 lbs. can be disposed of free of charge. This includes all acceptable solid waste with the exception of tires, which will be charged at the regular rate.



Kiwanis Food Pantry

The Echo Kiwanis is sponsoring a Food Pantry for Needy Echo families. They have recruited Agape House to help gather and

store the food which will then be distributed the last Wednesday of each month from the Echo Masonic Lodge from 4 to 6 pm. The Kiwanis wants to ensure that no one in Echo goes hungry. The next distribution will be April 28.

Water Billing

In March the water meters were read for the first time since last fall. During the winter the bills are for the minimum of 3000 gallons per month, so your April billing reflects any usage above the minimum used over the winter.

Understanding your water bill: The water bill can often be confusing because it reflects usage that is at least two weeks old when you receive it at the first of the month. Hopefully the following explanation will make it easier to understand your bill.

The readings on the water bills go from the 16th of one month to the 15th of the following month. This then gives the billing clerk 2 weeks to post readings and balance the billing before bills are mailed. As a result the bill then is mailed near the first of the 3rd month.



For example your March 1st bill would reflect usage from January 16th through February 15th. Even if you move out on January 29th, your final bill will not be mailed until the first week of March.

So if you made a payment in February, that payment was not for your final bill as the February bill would be usage from Dec. 16th through January 15th.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Echo Volunteer Fire Fighters & Methodist Church are jointly putting on the annual Easter Egg Hunt again this year.

The hunt will be at 9 am on Saturday, April 3. Infants through 4 year olds will be at the church. Children 5 through 8 years at the Fort Henrietta Park. Children 9 through 12

years at the school athletic field.

The Easter Bunny will be at the church and children can have their pictures taken with him. They will also have face painting and Balloons.



March Donations

Thank you for your donations this month:

Erica LaPorte	1 book
Elise Middleton	1 book
Dale Fife	25 periodicals &

Railroad calendar & Union Pacific
Brakeman's cap badge for China House.

Skatepark

The lights and timer for the skatepark are now installed and the city council will set new hours for the skatepark at their April 15 meeting. Currently the park is open from 9 am until dusk. Being considered is closure at 8 pm, 8:30 pm or 9 pm. If you would like to comment on the closure time, you can call city hall or attend the meeting at 7:30 pm on the auditorium stage.

Work finishing the perimeter of the skatepark including fencing, laying gravel and rock started spring vacation. Trees, ground-cover, grasses and vines will be planted over the next few weeks and Granite NW will pave the east side of the park.



Usage of the park has been phenomenal with a variety of age groups and skill levels.. Skaters from surrounding communities say they like the flow and transitions of the park better than some of the larger ones around the area.

The formal dedication ceremony will be on June 2 along with the America in Bloom

Judges reception..

Skatepark Rules

Skatepark rules prohibit smoking and drug use on the premises. Because of an on-going problem with skatepark users leaving garbage on the site and turning over the garbage can to use it as an obstacle, the city will begin citing anyone who litters or over turns the garbage cans as well as violating other park rules. Parking in the RV spaces is also prohibited and any vehicles parking west of posted sign can be towed or the owner cited.

We Noticed Program

Sandra Gutierrez, Prescott St.—new addition
Jeremiah Wade Family—Gerone St.-New paint and mulch on flower beds and perimeter of property.

Please let us know if you see other improvements around town that merit notice.

10th Anniversary & Community Reunion

The City of Echo will be hosting a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the renovation of city hall as well as an all community reunion on May 8. More information on the event will be provided in follow-up publicity.

The celebration will include a Potluck and community gathering at noon followed by an Adults-only Ball that evening from 8:30 to 11:30 pm with local musicians providing liver music. Tickets will be available for the ball to make sure we stay under the building load limits. Call city hall at 376-8411 to reserve a ticket for the ball.

We hope that current and former Echo residents will attend and share their memories of their life in the community after the pot luck. The event will also celebrate the

2009 America in Bloom Award for the best city in the 4000 & under population category. If you would like to help with this event or make a donation toward it please contact Diane Berry at



city hall or Jeanne or Gene Hampton at 541-376-8603.

Potluck: The meat, beverages, plates & utensils will be provided.

Last names A-O provide salads, bakes beans/side dishes, etc.

Last names P-Z provide desserts.

Genealogy Research Help



If you have been watching the new NBC show Who Do You Think You Are? and saw Matthew Broderick find out about his ancestors, you may want to start looking for information on yours.

The Library will host it's 2nd Genealogy Workshop on April 8 from 7 to 8:30 pm in the library. The workshop will be an informal, hands on program to help people get started and help them learn to use Ancestry.com, Family Search, Find-a-grave.com and other online sources. Materials the library has on genealogy will also be available.

The library computers will be available for people to do actual searches. There is no cost and the program is open to everyone. Bring as much information as you have available on ancestors such as birth and death dates and places, names of their siblings, etc.

Volunteers who want to share their successes are also encouraged to come and help others get started.

People to People

Sophomore Nichole Wolverton has been accepted by the People to People Student Ambassador Program to become an Ambassador for the United States this summer and will travel to England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales. Accounts to help her raise the funds for the tuition have been set up at Sterling Savings & Wills Fargo. Deposits can be made to these accounts or mailed to PO Box 202, Echo.

People to People was founded in 1956 by Pres. Eisenhower. "Eisenhower was acting on his firm belief that direct interaction between ordinary citizens around the world can promote cultural understanding and world peace."

Smart Investing

The Hermiston Library has partnered with other libraries in Eastern Oregon to obtain a FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association grant which is designed to build the capacity of U. S. public libraries to provide effective, unbiased financial and investor education resources and services to library patrons.

The Echo Library will be participating in the program which will provide investing programs around the region, including 2 in Echo over the next 2 years. The program will provide investing materials and taped copies of the programs for patrons.

To better target the programs to fit the needs of each library, the library has copies of the Smart Investing survey available for patrons to pickup at city hall.

Park Needs

The City of Echo is working with Sports Genesis, a non-profit corporation that provides assistance to smaller communities in the development of parks and athletic programs, to develop a Parks Master Plan. Residents who would like to review the preliminary document or provide comments and or suggestions on recreational needs are encouraged to contact Diane Berry, 541-376-8411. The study will look at the extended Echo area including the school district perimeters.



Needs discussed so far are: a large regional park dedicated to athletic fields for programs like T-Ball, Little League, Babe Ruth, Soccer and other outdoor activities; a covered picnic shelter with a small kitchen/concession area; expanded playground area on the west side of town; a vandal-resistant restroom at the park. A hiking trail system has also been listed on the city's downtown and transportation plans.

Fire District Budget Comm.

Anyone interested in serving on the Echo Fire District Budget Committee is asked to contact Janie Enright at 541-376-8536 prior to April 15. The first meeting will be April 21.

Downtown Improvements

Two years ago the city applied for a Transportation Enhancement Grant from ODOT for downtown improvement listed in the 2007 Downtown Study. Eighteen months ago the city was advised it was on a reserve list. If any of the 15 projects that were funded were not able to precede or if there were surplus funds, our project might move up and be eligible for funding.

Now when we had given up hope of the project being funded, we have received notification from ODOT that our project will be funded for the 2010-2013 funding cycle. This is great news, but not without problems, as the project calls for a \$114,000 match to be raised over the next 2 to 3 years. The project will widen sidewalks, remove the existing tree wells and replace them with curb extensions, add historic lighting and other historic elements such as drinking fountains and planters and place utilities underground.

The city now begins the process of working to find grants and donations to supplement street funds for this project. Donors will be recognized on plaques when the project is completed. Donations can be sent to PO Box 9, Echo, OR 97826.

Urban Forestry

This year's Urban Forestry program will be a little different. Instead of the 50/50 tree program, the city has purchased two 1.25" caliper trees, an Autumn Blaze Maple and a ' First Lady Cherry Tree. These trees will be awarded to 2 residents on Arbor Day.

The New Home Owners Trees are still available this year. Trent Fife, Stephen Gifford, Francisco Reyes and Craig Arbogast can pickup their trees at city hall. Persian Parrotia and Black Tupelo trees are available.

The Library's collection of books and materials on trees will be displayed during April for Arbor Day. The collection includes a number of volumes on tree care, selection, diseases and pruning.

Books on Gardening and Landscaping will also be on display in April.

Arbor Day, Schmidt Nursery Tree and other posters will also be on display at city hall.



Committee Openings

If you would be interested in serving on the Library Board or City Budget Committee, please contact city hall for an application.

Police Report

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 02-03 | VBR cite, Cemetery Rd./Thielsen
Suspicious Activity, Golf Course
Criminal Mischief, Onion Sheds |
| 02-04 | Warning, N. Thielsen |
| 02-05 | Unwanted Subject, Fire Hall
Disturbance, 1st blk S. Prescott |
| 02-06 | Fail to obey TCD, Bonanza & Main |
| 02-07 | Disturbance, Harassment, E. Main
Disturbance, 100 Blk, W. Buckley |
| 02-10 | Warning, Thielsen & Dupont |
| 02-11 | Disturbance, High School |
| 02-12 | Suspicious Activity, golf course &
800 blk Perry St.
Code Enforcement, Skatepark |
| 02-13 | Warning x 2 N. Thielsen & Thielsen
& Gerone |
| 02-14 | Suspicious Activity, 400 blk. Kennedy
Disturbance & Harassment, 100 Blk S.
Prescott |
| 02-17 | Warning, Code Enforce., Skatepark x 3
Driving Uninsured, open container, Du
pont & Front |
| 02-20 | VBR, Cell Phone, Thielsen & Main
Fail to Maintain Lane, N. Thielsen |
| 02-29 | Dog Complaint, 200 Blk N. Thielsen |

