

Candidates for City Council Announced

Four candidates have filed paperwork to run in the November election for Vernonia City Council.

Current Mayor Josette Mitchell will run again. She will face a challenge from former Mayor Sally Harrison. Mitchell defeated Harrison in 2010.

Jill Hult and Mike Seager were the only candidates to file for two open City Council seats. Current Councilors Donna Webb and Bruce McNair declined to run again.

Meyer Memorial Trust to Host Community Meetings

Meyer Memorial Trust invites the public to three community meetings along Oregon's North Coast from Tuesday, September 23 through Thursday, September 25, 2014.

Program officer Sally Yee will host the 'Two Way Street Tour' (TWST) meetings in Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties, offering advice about seeking grants from Meyer Memorial Trust and collecting information about the needs of nonprofits and communities in the area.

Louis King, a program officer with Spirit Mountain Community Fund, will join Yee in Tillamook. MMT Trustee John Emrick will join Yee in Cannon Beach, while the Foundation's new chief investment officer, Rukaiyah Adams, will be on hand for the TWST in Vernonia.

The Two Way Street Tour program was created to increase MMT's outreach efforts, help nonprofit organizations better understand the Foundation and its programs, and give MMT an opportunity to learn more about the communities and organizations it serves.

MMT staff has held more than 90 TWST meetings throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington since 2007. You'll find more

continued on page 7



VHS FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Turn to page 11



Kimberley Strassel Wins Bradley Prize

By Scott Laird

There's an old saying, "You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl." Kimberley Strassel is living proof that that old saying is definitely true.

Kimberley Strassel, a native of Buxton and graduate of Banks High School, was recently named one of four recipients of the Bradley Prize for 2014. Strassel was honored at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on June 18, 2014 where she received her award at a gala celebration.

Strassel, who has worked for the Wall Street Journal for her entire professional career, writes the weekly 'Potomac Watch' column, explaining American politics from an editorial perspective.

The Bradley Prize is a grant that recognizes individuals for contributions of excellence and is awarded by the politically conservative 'Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.' Up to four prizes of \$250,000 each are awarded annually to individuals who are considered "innovative thinkers."

I recently caught up with Strassel while she was relaxing in the river at Vernonia's Airport Park during her annual two week Oregon/west coast vacation. Strassel, her husband, and children traveled from the east coast to visit with family and attend the Banks BBQ in August. Strassel and nine year old son Oliver were heading to Alaska the next day to go salmon fishing.

Strassel, the oldest of four sisters in her family, graduated from Banks High School in 1990 where she was co-valedictorian of her class. She grew up hunting, fishing, shoot-

ing, riding motor bikes and even driving in demolition derbies.

"I was really fortunate," says Strassel. "I had parents who really exposed me to a lot of things. When I gave my speech at the Bradley Foundation awards ceremony I talked about how lucky I was to have people my whole life who told me 'There is no conventional story line for what you have to be.' We had four girls in our family and we didn't follow any gender stereotypes. We all grew up driving motorcycles and learned how to use chainsaws. My dad told me when I was fifteen that I couldn't have a car until I had taken it apart and put it back together. So when I thought about going off to the east coast to go to college, everyone said, 'Of course, you can do that.' No one ever said 'You can't do that,' or "That's not what we do.' I've always been fortunate to have people who just said I should do what I want and told me if I worked hard enough I could do whatever I wanted."

Strassel attended Princeton University, graduating in 1994 from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy.

"I think there are kids in our schools here who just don't even know that it's possible to do something else," said Strassel while discussing the career and life choices for local students in rural Oregon. "It's important for kids to know that they can do good things; for everyone to know they have choices."

Instead of heading on to law school following her graduation

from Princeton like she was planning, Strassel took an entry level position with the Wall Street Journal, working as a news assistant in Brussels. She was promoted to reporter after eighteen months, taking a post



in London. After five years, Strassel returned to the States, continuing to work in the news department for the Journal in New York. Strassel says after about a year there was an opening on the Editorial page and she made an unusual career move and applied for the position.

"I think they were so surprised to have someone from the news side come and ask for the position, that they just gave me the job," explains Strassel. "The people on the news side view the editorial pages as 'The Dark Side.' I've been there ever since."

Strassel says she and her family visit the Banks/Buxton/Vernonia area, "...at least twice a year."

continued on page 10

inside

3 when the circus came to town

10 the value of volunteers

13 vhs fall sports schedules

