

Candidates are Set for City/County Elections

Two Vernonia City Council and Mayor positions will be decided in November

Vernonians will have some big decisions to make when they receive their ballots for the November 6, 2018 election, with three positions open on the five person Council, which includes the Mayor.

According to Vernonia City Recorder Stephanie Borst, three individuals have submitted paperwork to run for Mayor, which is a two year term. Current City Councilor Jill Hult has decided to run for Mayor rather than her City Council seat, which was up for election. Joining Hult in the Mayoral race are Rick Hobart and David Sterner.

Four citizens have decided to run in the City Council race where the top two finishers will win the two, four-year positions. Incumbent Mike Seager will be seeking his second term as a Councilor. Seager is joined by Public Works Committee member Dale Webb, J.R. Allen, and Richard Traver.

At the County level, incumbent Henry Heimuller will run unopposed for his County Commissioner seat, after challenger Paulette Lichatowich withdrew from the race. Lichatowich and Heimuller were scheduled to face-off in November's election when neither candidate

received 50% of the vote in the Primary Election in May. Lichatowich withdrew from the race on July 10, and also resigned her position on the Port of St. Helens Board of Commissioners, after successfully defending herself against an Ethics Complaint at the state level. "...because the people involved have trivialized my years of service on the Port Commission and the 2018 election process and the continuing assault of misinformation, I will not run again for elected office in Columbia County," said Lichatowich in a press release announcing her resignation and withdrawal from the County Commissioner's race.

In the other big County-wide election, Columbia County voters will have the chance to elect a new Sheriff for the first time in 10 years. Former Sheriff Jeff Dickerson retired early in June of this year, after first being elected in 2008 and winning re-election in two subsequent elections. Running for the County Sheriff's position are current Patrol Deputy Brian Pixley of Scappoose; Dave Brown, a former Criminal Investigator with U.S. Treasury Department, former Supervisory Deputy with the U.S. Marshals office, and a former Columbia County Deputy; and James Gibson of Clatskanie, a former Columbia County jail Lieutenant who also ran for Columbia County Commissioner in 2012.

Meet Father Joshua Clifton

St. Mary's Catholic Church has a new priest

By Scott Laird

Parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Vernonia are enthusiastic about their new priest, Father Joshua Clifton. And once you meet Father Clifton, you can understand why.

Father Clifton started serving the St. Mary's Church in July of this year. He is energetic and engaging when you meet and chat with him, and parish members have described him as "thought-provoking," "high energy," and "inspiring."

"I really want to try and meet the needs of the St. Mary's parish, and to help and serve the community of Vernonia," said Father Clifton following a recent Sunday mass service.

Father Clifton will split his time between St. Mary's parish and the St. Birgitta's parish in Linnton, just outside Portland.

Father Clifton grew up in San Luis Obispo, California, the sixth generation to grow up there in a family that arrived in the late 1800s. His great, great, great grandparents immigrated there from the Azores Islands, off the coast of Portugal, and were dairy farmers. "So much of the family has stayed in the area," says Father Clifton. "I can go out to the cemetery and see all the graves of my relatives."

Father Clifton says he attended all public schools growing up, not parochial schools like you might assume, and attended the University of

California at Berkeley, where he played in the band and received a Bachelors Degree in Religious Studies. He entered St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California in 2000. "On the first day they opened the class with a prayer, and that was shocking to me, because I had never prayed in class before," says Father Clifton with a laugh. He left the seminary for a short period and returned to his hometown of San Luis Obispo to teach religion at the Catholic High School there for two years, and then moved to Paramus, New Jersey where he taught for two more years at a private school.

He returned to finish his seminary studies in Mt. Angel, Oregon, and was ordained a deacon in 2011, and ordained a priest in the Diocese of Monterey, California in 2012.

As a priest, Father Clifton has held several posts, mostly in the Salinas Valley in California, serving migrant and agricultural workers and doing Spanish language ministry, and also visiting hospitals and prisons, first in Salinas and then in Greenfield, California. "I had studied some Spanish before, but I really learned a lot more just being a priest in those communities and interacting with everyone," says Father Clifton. He then spent a short time filling in for priests on sabbatical in several locations around California.

"Then I had an idea, or



an inspiration I like to think, and I called a priest in this archdiocese here in Portland named Timothy Furlow, who had been my next door neighbor in seminary, and asked him if he would like to work in a parish together."

Together Father Clifton and Father Furlow started a Society of Apostolic Life, which is a way that priests can be grouped together in both service and living arrangements, similar to an order of monks. "It's a way that priests can live together, rather than living on their own," explains Father Clifton. "In the past I had been on my own, but being with another priest is so much better. You can cook for each other, you have fellowship and community, and you can help each other. So we're trying to start that here. We're a group of two right now."

Father Clifton currently lives at St. Patrick's Church in Portland and is assigned to St. Mary's, as well as St. Birgitta's in Linnton where he says mass each Sunday morning before heading to Vernonia. "At St. Birgitta's we also perform the

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VHS Fall Sports Preview

Football – Logger head coach Reed Watson will try to build on last year's success this season with a small but talented group of returning players, along with a few newcomers.

After winning four games last year and just missing the playoffs, Watson has high hopes heading into this season. "I expect much more from them this year," he says. "We're on our way up and I really think we can win the league title. This is going to be a very exciting group to watch."

With just 20 players in uniform early in the preseason schedule, Watson will be looking for leadership from a big group of juniors who have already excelled for the blue and gold, along with a couple of seniors. A lack of depth could be an issue for the squad, and most of the starters will play both offense and defense. Watson says he

expects to battle for the league title with Neah-Kah-Nie and Knappa, along with Warrenton, who just moved down from 3A this season.

The Loggers have a lot of talent on offense at the skill positions, with junior quarterback Gunnar Harral, junior running back Josh Rice, and junior receiver Kale Sullivan leading the way. Both Harral and Rice were starters last season and should be some of the best players at their positions in the league this year. "Josh just might be the best running back in the state in 2A," says Watson. Watson says he will often run an offense that uses three running backs, so Calvin Clapshaw and Eli Thompson will also see a lot of playing time. "Calvin is big and fast and will be able to run people over," says Watson. Sullivan, a stand-



Assistant coach John Murray watches quarterback Gunnar Harral.

out defensive back last year will be one of Harral's main targets when he looks to throw.

The offensive line will be a

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