

The INDEPENDENT

Serving the upper Nehalem River valley. Published monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, by Public Opinion Laboratory Ltd., 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064, as a free newspaper. All material protected under U.S. Copyright laws. Editors and Publishers, Dirk & Noni Andersen, (503) 429-9410.

Opinion

Good candidates needed for openings

With the likelihood that water rates will be increased in Vernonia, many people will react angrily, blaming the council and the mayor for situations beyond their control. A few will consider running for one of the three positions that will be on the ballot in November — mayor and two city council seats.

The time is now for all potential candidates to prepare for city elections and there are some things they should consider; the first is that these positions are all volunteer, not paid.

A few other considerations are listed here:

Are you prepared to support city ordinances even if they make your friends or neighbors unhappy?

Can you handle being called at home by people complaining about city actions that you know are both legal and necessary?

How would you handle being cussed at for doing the job as called for in the city charter?

Are you willing to raise fees if necessary, even though such action is decidedly unpopular?

Do you know how much the city pays annually just to operate street lights?

Do you know the requirements of state and county building codes?

Are you aware of the considerations involved in updating the city's comprehensive plan?

How many night meetings can you attend in a month? Daytime meetings?

Will your employer give you time off for city business?

What do you *really* know about how city government works — compared to what you *think* you know?

Most potential candidates would not know, or be expected to know, the details of city operations or government regulations. The fine points are learned after the election.

However, anyone who is serious about serving in a council or mayoral position should attend every city council and planning commission meeting, hearing or work session between now and the election. It takes a lot of time and, to do the job well, dedication is required.

Good people are needed in the city in many capacities. If you feel you have the necessary qualifications for mayor or council, you should throw your hat in the ring. However, if you're not willing to put in the amount of time and hard work needed to do the job well, you should spend your volunteer time in another capacity; that way, you can still be a contributing citizen, not a road block.

It is a great beginning

It was a long time coming, but the official opening and dedication of the Banks-Vernonia Linear Park was a nice reward for the many people who worked hard to make it a reality. It is also the beginning of a new era for Vernonia, an opportunity to become an important part of the outdoor recreation industry in Oregon — instead of a down-at-the-heels community still living for past glories.

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
Vernonia City Librarian

What a summer this has been! On Wednesday afternoons some twenty to thirty youngsters continue to participate in the summer reading program at the library. The eighth and final session will be August 5. Watch for these young readers and their float in the Jamboree Parade.

If you're looking for ideas to enjoy the outdoors more fully, don't forget that the library has ideas for building decks, tree houses and other outdoor structures, as well as outdoor furniture.

If you just want to relax and spend your summer with a good book, come take a look. There's something for everyone! For Danielle Steel fans, her newest novel, *Jewels*, awaits. This is the story of a great house of gems, a rare family, and an extraordinary marriage. *Scarlett*, Alexandra Ripley's sequel to *Gone*

With the Wind is also available for readers of romance.

Sandra Brown's *French Silk*, combines romance and mystery as a New Orleans businesswoman is suspected of killing a television evangelist.

Nancy Price, the author of *Sleeping With the Enemy*, has a spellbinding new novel of suspense entitled *Night Woman*. In *Sahara*, Clive Cussler once again has his hero, Dirk Pitt, trashing the bad guys and getting the girl as he strikes out across the Sahara to warn the world of a plot that is killing thousands of people in the African desert.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Library Hours: Monday and Friday 1-5 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Preschool Story Time is every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for your help

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the following businesses for helping make the Micky Bruers Memorial Golf Scholarship tournament a success this year: Crabtree's Pub & Deli, Vernonia Realty & Insurance Center, Vernonia Auto Parts, Sunnyside Service, Frye's Action Athletics, Sunset Grove Golf Course, Western Auto, 21st Sentry Video, Vernonia Variety, Vernonia 76 Station, Vernonia Drug, U.S. Bank, and, of course, the Vernonia Golf club.

We also want to congratulate this year's tournament winners. First place trophies went to a brother team of Scott and Stewart Grady. Second place trophies went to Bob Zavales and John Trent. Third place honors went to Lonnie Dennis and Nick Zavales.

A big thank you to everyone who participated this year to make the tournament a success. Hope to see all of you again next year.

Sincerely,

Kathy Richardson

on behalf of the

Tournament Committee

No common sense?

To the Editor:

I have heard numerous stories about how ridiculous and oppressive the land use regulatory system has become in Oregon, but I still cannot believe what has happened to my property.

I purchased 40 acres in Hood River County on which I could build my home, but later additional restrictions were placed on the property taking away my right to build.

I then found someone who wanted to purchase the property, if he could park a camp trailer to watch his livestock, but "planning" restrictions had taken that right away too.

Local land use rules say, "the RV (recreation vehicle) will be allowed on the property for a period not to exceed 30 days in 180 days." Which means an owner can camp

on his own land for only two months out of a year.

My property borders federally owned forest land where the U.S. government allows you to camp for up to 14 days, take a 30 day break, and then camp for another 14 days. This is almost four months a year on a single site that a person can camp.

I purchased the property with the right to build, maintained the land and paid property taxes, yet now I have less rights on my own land than I have on the public land adjacent to my property. Has all common sense been removed from Oregon's land use laws?

Darain D. Marx
Hood River

Thanks for support

To the Editor:

As coaches of the 9/10 year-old girls' baseball team, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Vernonia Youth Baseball Association for their support. We appreciate all of the parents and grandparents for their participation. A special thanks to Gwin Logging, who sponsored our team.

Sincerely,
Dana & Tony Hyde
Vernonia

ACS says "thanks"

To the Editor:

The annual American Cancer Society Golf Tournament raised \$2,000 for the Oregon Division. Sixty local golfers competed in this state-qualifying tournament and 7 teams will go on to compete at Pumpkin Ridge in August, hoping to qualify for the national tournament.

With fierce competition, two play-offs were necessary in Men's Division II and III. Simultaneous chip-in shots won a seat at state for the team of John Trent, Jerry Vorce, Bob Makepeace and John Crabtree.

The qualifying teams and their scores, were:
Men's Division I—

(1) Wayne Axelsen, Cory Cox, Bryan Roberts, Joe Koskela - 62

(2) Fred Fulmer, Ray Foster, Bob Zavales, Nick Zavales - 63

Men's Division II -

(1) Scott Grady, Stewart Grady, Lonnie Dennis, Garrett Olson - 60

(2) Trent, Vorce, Makepeace, Crabtree - 63

Men's Division III—

(1) Bob Stacklie, Terry Priest, Don Wallace, George Pond - 63

(2) Pete Ford, Gene Lewis, Mac Hazel, George Kajawari - 69

Women's Division II -

Vera Cole, Jan McAulay, Sherryl Walters, Elaine Schultz - 72

We want to thank the sponsors of the tournament for their support: Holce Logging, Sword Logging, Gwin & Sons Logging, Mike Pihl Logging, Western Auto, Curls Transportation, Cavenham Forest Industries, Oregon Realty, Vernonia Realty & Insurance, Vernonia Sentry, Nehalem Valley Sanitary Service, Ruby Construction, U.S. Bank, Old Timers Saw & Radio Shop, Vernonia Health Center, Vernonia Drug, Crabtree's Pub & Deli, Scoop's Dog House, Wilcox & Flegel, The Hair Parlour, Kountry Katering, United Grocers and Vernonia Golf Club.

The money will go directly to cancer research, patient services and public education.

Barb Fulmer,
Tournament Chair

Defensive driving course to be given

A defensive driving course, 55 Alive, for older adults will be available through the Vernonia Grange in late August.

The course is sponsored nationally by the American Association of Retired Persons.

Interested persons should register at the Vernonia Senior Citizens Center. Call 429-6541 to register.