

# Vernonia and Banks residents review positive events of 1999 and look ahead



**ART PARROW**, Vernonia Mayor, retired school superintendent

"The most important happening in Vernonia during the past year was the preparation of the city for the new millennium. The renovation of the water distribution system saves most of the 40 percent of water that was lost through leaking pipes. Preparation also included the streetscape plan with new sidewalks, lights and trees; the construction of a new City Hall and library without using citizen property tax dollars;

the installation of the new bridge across Rock Creek on the linear park trail; and the many other civic projects completed.

"What I would hope to see happening in 2000 is the repair and reconstruction of our city streets, along with the widening and straightening of Hwy. 47 from Staley's through Vernonia. This, however, is largely contingent upon the approval of the referendum of the tax receipts for street repairs and maintenance. Local tax dollars are not used for this purpose.

"I would also like to see the empty commercial buildings on Bridge Street filled with thriving businesses that are supported by our local citizens, the recruitment of clean industrial development, and the completion of the linear trail to the lake area, connecting to a multi-sports complex established there."

Current receipts allow us to fix one short section per year while many more deteriorate. The increase would greatly enhance the City's ability to do much more.

**MARY TOLONEN**, Vernonia business owner



"1999 saw the cooperation of the various city departments, the Chamber of Commerce, Vernonia Pride, Friends of the Scout Cabin, business owners and individuals in bringing to completion the new City Hall complex and library and the Scout Cabin, as well as a new face for downtown streets. It truly demonstrated how one project can inspire others.

"In 2000 I would like to see more facelifts throughout the downtown core which will draw more business, as well as a stronger, more involved Chamber of Commerce."

**MIKE PIHL**, Vernonia logging contractor

"The new City Hall and Library, upgrading the water system and putting in new sidewalks, rehabilitating the scout cabin; they're all important and they improve the quality of life. Instead of everything downtown being old and worn out, it looks good and gives people incentive to do more of the same.



"In 2000, I want to see the Linear Park completed from Anderson Park to the mill pond."



**APRIL BAMBURG**, 17, Vernonia High School senior

"The most important thing that happened in Vernonia in 1999 was, I think, the rebuilding of the Scout Cabin. It was nice to see our community pull together and achieve something that benefits everyone.

"In 2000 I would like to see Youth in Action's goal of having the wheels park finished before the end of the year. I would also like to see that students have a place where they can hang out, a place where there are things to do that don't involve partying."

## Banks man one of 12 in state honored for dedication to fitness



David William Updyke of Banks was honored Dec. 16, 1999, at Banks Junior High School when he received one of twelve awards given statewide for significant contribution to the fitness and health of Oregonians. The award was presented by Mayor Raymond Deeth and Superintendent of Schools Marilyn McGlasson, at a ceremony honoring Updyke's dedicated service to Banks' physical fitness and sports programs. Updyke was selected for the honor by the Oregon Governor's Council and the League of Oregon Cities.

Updyke explained that when the financially strapped district cut funding for the Banks Junior High School sports program, he organized a volunteer program to keep it going during the past year. "I donated a minimum of ten hours a week to practice, plus game time," he said.

Volunteer work to benefit youth sports is not new to Updyke, however. According to McGlasson, he has spearheaded kindergarten-eighth grade youth programs in football, basketball and baseball for both boys and girls for the past eight years.

"[He] stepped up to the plate," when the budget crunch hit, said McGlasson. "In a time of need, David was there."

In addition to his work for youth sports, Updyke is a parent volunteer who works full time and is going to school at

night for a degree in mechanical engineering.

A native of Banks and a graduate of Banks High School, Updyke and his wife, Carli, have two children in school. Carli is also a playground assistant at school.

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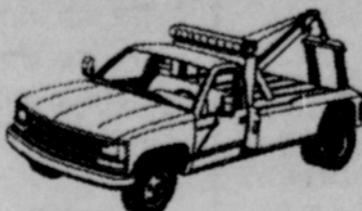
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