

Banks council names replacement for Maller seat

Dana Lee Kampbell was the unanimous choice last night to complete the term vacated by Banks City Councilor Evelyn Maller. Kampbell has prior experience in city government in Corvallis and, since moving to Banks 18 months ago, has attended most city meetings.

She describes herself as "being interested in getting things done," not as an observer. Kampbell publishes the Arbor Village newsletter. She will be sworn in at the council

meeting on April 11.

Two additional citizens, Alan Cathcart and Claudine Bachelor, also applied for the vacancy.

A Planning Commission vacancy was also filled, with the appointment of Margaret Holland to a non-voting position. Holland previously served as a transportation planner for the State of Alaska. She is also experienced with project development and fund raising.

Banks Chief of Police Daryl

Crandall discussed a bad check ring operating in the area and suggested that merchants use ink pads to put thumbprints on checks. The ring's most frequent targets are places like gas stations, pizza parlors and other quick service businesses, according to Crandall.

The city will be able to borrow the \$615,000 needed for water system upgrades from a state revolving loan fund, consulting engineer Dale Merrell

told the council. The city will have to raise water rates by about \$4.50 per month in order to pay off the 30-year loan. The current residential rate is \$20.47 for one-thousand cu. ft. per month.

A public hearing will be set to answer citizens' questions on the water project and to gather their comments.

The city budget committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall on March 21 to consider the budget for the 2000-2001

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Counting noses...



If everybody enjoys the 2000 U.S. Census as much as the group above, there shouldn't be any problem getting a good count. Actually, these people are a few of the 18 Vernonia volunteers who gathered for a training session on how to help other citizens with questions about the census. An accurate count is very important for local governments because of the number of funds that are allocated by population. The Questionnaire Assistance Center will operate in the Vernonia Senior Center through April 14.

Choir serenades school board

A brief, but very enjoyable, presentation by the Vernonia High School Choir was a welcome change for the Vernonia School District Board of Directors at their March 9 meeting.

Led by director Bob Isted, the choir started with the Star Spangled Banner, then performed a parody on Bach with the "Not So Boring Minuet". They completed their performance with the Skye Boat Song, a traditional Scottish air.

Most of the meeting involved routine personnel matters, primarily contract extensions for certified staff who are in the first few years with the district.

In other personnel matters, the resignation of high school Spanish teacher Wilfredo Martir was accepted, and the following extra duty contracts were approved:

— Clint Kelly as head Junior

High Track Coach.

— Dave Doubrava as head High School Baseball Coach.

— Joe Strand as head High School Girls Golf Coach.

The last position was not included in the district budget. A community member has donated funding for the total cost of the girls' golf program.

Superintendent Larry McClellan informed the board that the state Department of Education has again delayed the state Report Card for schools like Lincoln Grade School. The delay is because Lincoln doesn't have any students in the benchmark grades (3, 5, 8 and 10). Now the district expects the information in April.

There are two vacancies on the district budget committee. The board will need to fill the positions at the April meeting. Terms are for three years and

members must be residents of the school district.

Accreditation by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges was renewed for Vernonia High School. The school was slightly downgraded because its media program is not under the supervision of a certified media specialist. The district has been unable to find a certificated person for the position.

Public Hearing on weight ordinance

March 20 at 6:30 p.m., is the time set for a public hearing on a proposed ordinance regulating the weight of vehicles on residential streets within Vernonia. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers in the City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street.

Peterson won't run, others seek position

With the exception of Commission Position No. 1, currently held by Jack Peterson, there won't be a lot of action in the Columbia County primary election. Peterson, a St. Helens Democrat, has decided to step down at the end of this term. He served two terms as a commissioner before losing, then being re-elected in 1986.

The action will be especially interesting in the Democratic primary, with four candidates for Position No. 1: Mike Avent, a business owner and member of the Rainier City Council; Joe Corsiglia, a PGE employee and member of the St. Helens City Council; Susan Easley, a business owner and member of the St. Helens School Board; and Carole M. Smith of Warren, who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners but was unsuccessful in her election bid for a full term.

Two candidates will seek Position 1 in the Republican primary election: Scott Burge, an automation specialist and member of the Scappoose City

Council who previously ran for election to the board of commissioners; and Colleen DeShazer of Warren, a business administrator and member of the Port of St. Helens Commission. This will be DeShazer's third run at a commission seat.

Incumbent Commissioner, for Position No. 3, Tony Hyde, a Vernonia Republican, is unopposed in the primary election. He will meet Democrat Shawna L. Sykes, of Scappoose, in the November election. Sykes was the only Democrat to file for Position 3. She is executive director of the St. Helens-Scappoose Chamber of Commerce.

Four non-partisan positions — County Sheriff, Treasurer, and Surveyor, and Justice of the Peace for Clatskanie-Vernonia Justice Court — will be noted on either the primary or general ballot. There is no competition for any of the positions, leaving Sheriff Phil Derby, Treasurer Paulette Kuiper-Hall, Surveyor Phil Dewey and Justice Rod McLean unopposed for re-election.

City says no Jake brakes except in an emergency

An ordinance prohibiting the use of engine compression brakes in Vernonia was adopted by the Vernonia City Council at their March 6 meeting. The ordinance went into effect immediately. A fine of \$315 may be imposed for violating the ordinance.

The council was informed that Youth in Action members who are working on development of a wheels park have found that the proposed site across from Hawkins Park will not be suitable. Because the site is located in a flood plain, it

cannot be filled to the standard needed for the park development. The council affirmed their intent to help find another location and suggested that Youth in Action send representatives to the next park board meeting.

Columbia County Commissioner Rita Bernhard informed the council that the board considers extension of the linear trail very important. She said they have no plans to help with financing the project, but will write letters of support when the City applies elsewhere.