

Filing date near for Vernonia, Banks council positions

Three seats open on ballot for Vernonia

The terms of Vernonia Mayor Art Parrow, Councilor Cindy Ball, and Councilor Gayle Shriver will expire Dec. 31, 2000, and will be on the general election ballot in November. Length of the term for mayor is two years; the councilors' terms are four years each.

Through Monday, July 17, there have been two filings. Ball has filed nomination pa-

pers for the mayor's position, and local businessman Glen Purvee has filed for a term on the council.

Candidates must be residents of Vernonia for at least one year. Nomination papers may be filed either by obtaining the signatures of 25 registered voters in the City, or by paying a \$10 fee.

For complete information about the requirements, duties and responsibilities of council members, pick up a candidate

packet from City Recorder Janelle Serafin at City Hall. The last day to file is August 29 at 5:00 p.m.

Banks mayor, three councilors open up

Seats currently held by Banks City Councilors Bob Orłowski, Norma Stewart and Dana Campbell will all be up for grabs on the November ballot. All three positions are for four year terms.

Also on the ballot will be the Mayor's position. Mayor Ray Deeth, who has had a sometimes adversarial relation with a majority of the city council, said he is undecided about filing for re-election.

Candidates must be residents of Banks for at least one year and must obtain the signatures of at least 25 registered in the City.

Banks candidates have until Aug. 25 to file nomination papers at Banks City Hall.

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Helping hands



Starting on a Campus Beautification Project for Vernonia elementary schools, a group of mothers have painted new basketball keys, foursquare courts and hopscotch games on the pavement at Washington Grade School. Pictured as they begin work July 13, standing from left, are Robin Dennis, Wendy Fife, Kala Cota, Tammy Sullivan and Donna Gehrke. Kneeling or sitting in front are Yvette Chapman, Soni Rice, Orissa Burghard and Kelly Murphy-Shaw. Others helping with the project were Gretchen Lindauer, Debbie Johnston and Patty Fetherston. For more about the beautification project, please see Letters to the Editor on page 3.

Grant \$\$ will improve RV sites

The City of Vernonia received good news last week, with word from the Northwest Oregon Economic Alliance (NOEA) that they have approved a Rural Investment grant of \$80,000 for improvements to the RV sites in city-owned Anderson Park. The city originally sought \$130,000 for the job, which will include extensive infrastructure upgrades.

NOEA is a partnership of Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. It receives state lottery funds for Rural Investment and Regional Investment.

In this round of funding, there was approximately \$250,000 available for Rural Investment and \$275,000 for Regional Investment. Seventeen of 51 applications received tentative approval, though not necessarily for the full amount requested.

Vernonia's application included an amount sufficient to have a contractor do the entire job at Anderson Park. Because the award was for \$80,000 instead of \$130,000, the City had the option of accepting the lesser amount, or declining the grant at this time.

The City decided to make some major adjustments and have much of the work done by its own Public Works crew.

Other projects that received preliminary approval, and the amount, are as follows:

- Columbia County Cultural Asset Mapping/Artists Directory, \$5,000;
- Columbia County Critical Access Hospital Planning, \$60,000;
- Columbia County/Portland Community College Assessment, \$5,000;
- Scappoose Heritage Park, Please see page 2

County Fair slates full activity schedule

A schedule full of great entertainment is included in addition to the traditional activities at the Columbia County Fair, which opened today, July 19, and runs through Sunday, July 23. The 85th annual county fair held a special opening with a dedication to the late Emma Dickson, who spearheaded fair activities and fund raising for more than two decades.

Today's special events also include the My Fair Lady Pageant, with princesses from each of the county's five senior citizen centers vying for the title of queen. The Vernonia Senior Center



Cozy Tatman is represented by Cozy Tatman. Other contestants are Betty Flora of Clatskanie, Eleanor Abraham of Rainier, Annie Nielsen of St. Helens and Doris Carte of Scappoose.

In addition to the carnival, daily from noon until closing, a wide array of entertainment will keep things lively while folks

rest their legs between tours of the exhibits. Singer, songwriter and fiddler Stephanie Ann will present three shows daily, as will 10-year-old singer/songwriter Alexis. The country music quartet Lonesome Road will perform Friday and Saturday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and from 10:00 p.m. until closing.

Other entertainment includes performances by the Fireballs Square Dance Club, the St. Helens Twirl Club and the Ridge Runners band.

Valentines Performing Pigs will present three shows daily, with pigs playing golf, soccer and baseball, jumping through hoops, bowling, riding scooters and skateboards, and "ham dunking." Real pros, the Performing Pigs have performed over 450 times in four years and have appeared on national television, including the Today Show and NBC Nightly News.

The popular National Professional Rodeo Association rodeo will be a big draw on Friday and Saturday nights, and a special act has been added that is guaranteed to wow the crowds. Six-year-old Guy Wendt and his seven-year-old horse, Thunder, put on a professional performance with Guy cracking a bull whip, spinning rope and putting Thunder through a series of tricks.



Thunder and Guy

Another favorite performer, Joe Stoddard, is returning to the fair, too. Stoddard's music and comedy rou-

ning rope and putting Thunder through a series of tricks.

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