

Mist, Birkenfeld prepare for second annual parade

The Year 2000 sets the theme for "The Millenium Parade" at Mist. Following up on their first, very successful, parade last year, the 2000 parade will start at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 9.

There are parade divisions for Adults, Children, Commercial Floats, Courts, Civic Groups, Heavy Equipment, Horse entries (these must include clean-up crews), Animal Entries, Marching Units, Cars-Stock-Pre '50s, Cars-Stock-

Post '50s, Non-commercial Floats, Motorized, Humorous Child, and Humorous Adult.



Parade participants will assemble at the ODOT sand yard on Hwy. 47, mile post 11.2, starting at 9:00 a.m. The parade will head southwest on Hwy 47 and disband near the junction of Hwy 47 and Hwy 202.

Following the parade, the community will gather for a potluck picnic at the Mist-Birkenfeld Main Fire Station. Fire board members will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, lemonade, coffee and table

service. Others are asked to bring salads or desserts.

Volunteer firefighters with the M-B Rural Fire Protection District will be selling "I Support" tee shirts and memberships in Fire Med/Life Flight. Ambulance volunteers will be taking blood pressures.

The "Fire Pup" will be there, too, to help promote fire safety.

The parade is sponsored by M-BRFPD. For more information, call the main fire station at 503-755-2710.

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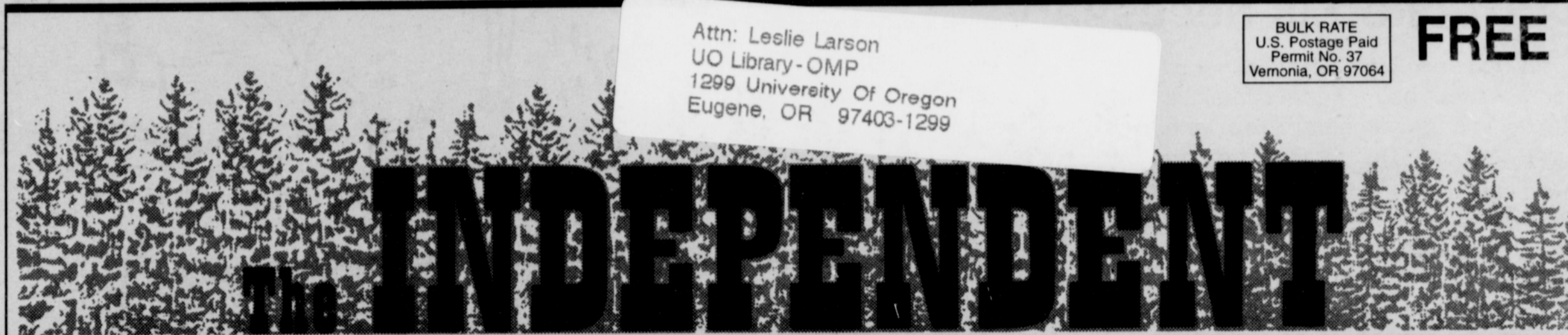
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A long way to go



The steps are steep and the backpack is heavy on the first day of school. It sure is nice to have a helping hand from Mom.

Area voters to have choice of candidates

Eligible voters within the cities of Vernonia and Banks will have choices for most of the open positions on their municipal ballots.

The names of two Vernonia City Council members will be on the November 7 ballot for the position of Mayor. Vying for the seat being vacated by Mayor Art Parrow are Councilors Cyndy Ball and Mario Leonetti.

There will be three candidates on the ballot for two open council positions. Local business owner Glen Purvee, Vernonia Sentry manager Randy Parrow and Charles "Chris" Collins have all qualified for the November General Election. Councilors Ball and Gayle Shriver are not seeking reelection to the council, though Ball is a candidate for mayor. Leonetti, who has two years remaining on his council term, will remain as a councilor if he is unsuccessful in his run for mayor.

The only exception for a choice on the municipal ballot is the mayor's position in Banks. Council member Robert Orlowski is unopposed in his bid for the position of mayor. The current mayor, Ray Deeth, is not seeking reelection.

Five candidates are vying for three open positions on the Banks City Council. Brendan Warren, Terry Branstitre, Ryan Burr, Jeannette Garnsey and Kathleen Murdoch have all returned nomination papers but, as of last Friday, City Recorder Bob Prickett had not yet had the candidates certified. The deadline for certifying municipal candidates is Sept. 7.

The race for two positions on the Columbia County Board of Commissioners became either more interesting or more confusing, depending upon

your point of view, when an Independent candidate and a Constitution Party candidate joined the Democrats and Republicans.

Position 1, the open seat being relinquished by Commissioner Jack Peterson, will be the object of three -way battle. Democrat Joe Corsiglia of St. Helens, and Republican Scott Burge of Scappoose will also have to contend with Paul Pulliam, an independent candidate from St. Helens.

Republican Commissioner Tony Hyde of Vernonia, is seeking a second term against opposition from Democrat Shawna Sykes of Scappoose and the newest entry into the race, Constitution Party candidate Wayne Mayo of Scappoose.

Columbia County Sheriff Phil Derby and Treasurer Paulette Kuiper-Hall will be on the ballot, but they have no opposition. Also running unopposed is Clatskanie-Vernonia Justice Court Judge Rod McLean.

There will be two Columbia County money measures on the ballot, also.

Measure 5-67 seeks a four-year local option tax to fund operations of the County Parks Department. The cost of this measure is estimated at 15.9 cents per \$1,000, or \$15.90 per year for property valued at \$100,000. For several years, county parks have been funded primarily from timber harvests; no timber harvests are scheduled in the next four years.

Measure 5-66 asks for a approval of a five-year local option tax for operations, repairs, maintenance and improvements to the county Fair Grounds. The cost is estimated at \$10 per year for five years on a \$100,000 property.

Hearing on new Senior Center

The City of Vernonia is preparing an application for a Technical Assistance Grant to determine the feasibility of constructing a new Vernonia Senior Citizens Center. As part of the process, the city has scheduled a public hearing for questions and comments on the subject.

Construction of a new senior center has been under consideration for a number of years, partly because the present building is inadequate, and partly because it is in the flood plain. There has been more urgency about a potential replacement, however, since the building and its contents incurred major damage during the unusually heavy flooding of 1996.

A related topic is also under

consideration - though it's not a part of the scheduled hearing - that is whether the community is large enough to support an assisted living center for senior citizens.

An assisted living center provides all necessary services, including such things as cleaning, meals in the dining room and a 24-hour alarm system, while allowing senior citizens the privacy of their own apartments and the freedom to come and go as they please. Typically, the apartments lack full kitchens, having only a small refrigerator and microwave oven.

Assisted living centers do not provide medical care and should not be confused with adult foster care homes or convalescent hospitals. They are

intended for seniors who are healthy enough to be mostly self-sufficient, but who no longer want to care for a home and yard.

While there are many variations in assisted living centers, Vernonia's small population would mandate frugality in both construction and operations. This is the primary reason it is being considered in conjunction with a new senior citizens center.

The public hearing will be held on Monday, September 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. In addition to comments at the hearing, written comments will be accepted by the City. Written comments must be received at City Hall no later than 5:00 p.m. September 15.