

Nelson, Levenseller selected to fill 47J vacancies

Vernonia School District Board of Directors is again at full strength with the appointment last week of Schann Nelson and Cari Levenseller to the remaining vacancies. With Leslie O'Leary, who was appointed in October, remaining board members are Chairman Jeff Blum, Vice-Chair Carla

Strand, Tim Titus and Kim Tierney.

Nelson, a long-time resident of Vernonia, is an active school volunteer and presently chairs the Vernonia High School Site Council. She has one daughter who has graduated from Vernonia High School, another who is a freshman and a third who is taking her junior year in North Carolina.

A comparative newcomer, Levenseller has lived in Vernonia for two years. She has

three children in school and two who will soon be enrolled in school.

In addition to Nelson and Levenseller, applicants for the board vacancies were Jim Krahn, Tera Roberts, Chad Sulloway, Melissa Gritz, Pete Brock, Lisa Fredenberg and Becky Johnston.

The board approved changes in the district policy governing admission of exchange students. Dates and schedules in the previous poli-

cy were confusing and created some misunderstandings. The district will still accept a maximum of six exchange students in any one semester. Additionally, a procedure has been set by which exchange programs may apply for recognition. Already recognized are the American Scandinavian Student Exchange (ASSE) and American Field Service (AFS). To obtain a copy of the policy, contact the district office at 503-429-5891.

Fall Band Concert
Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m.
VHS Gym

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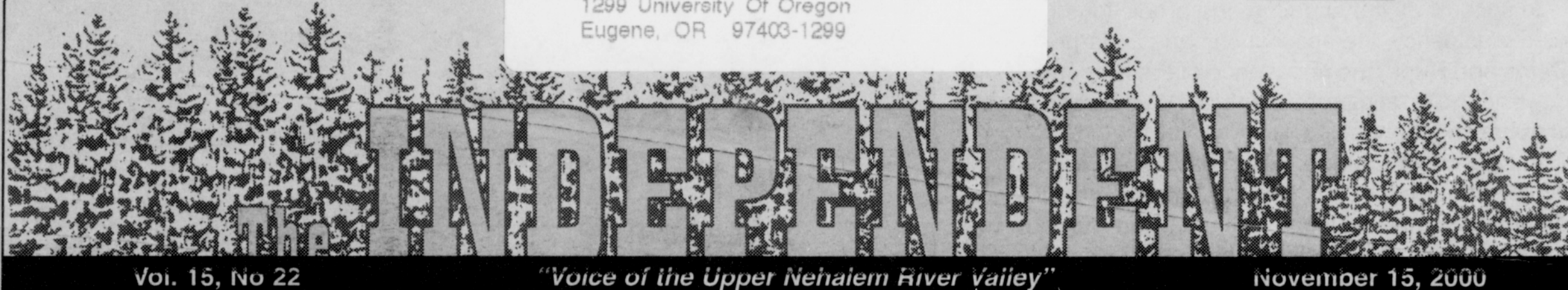
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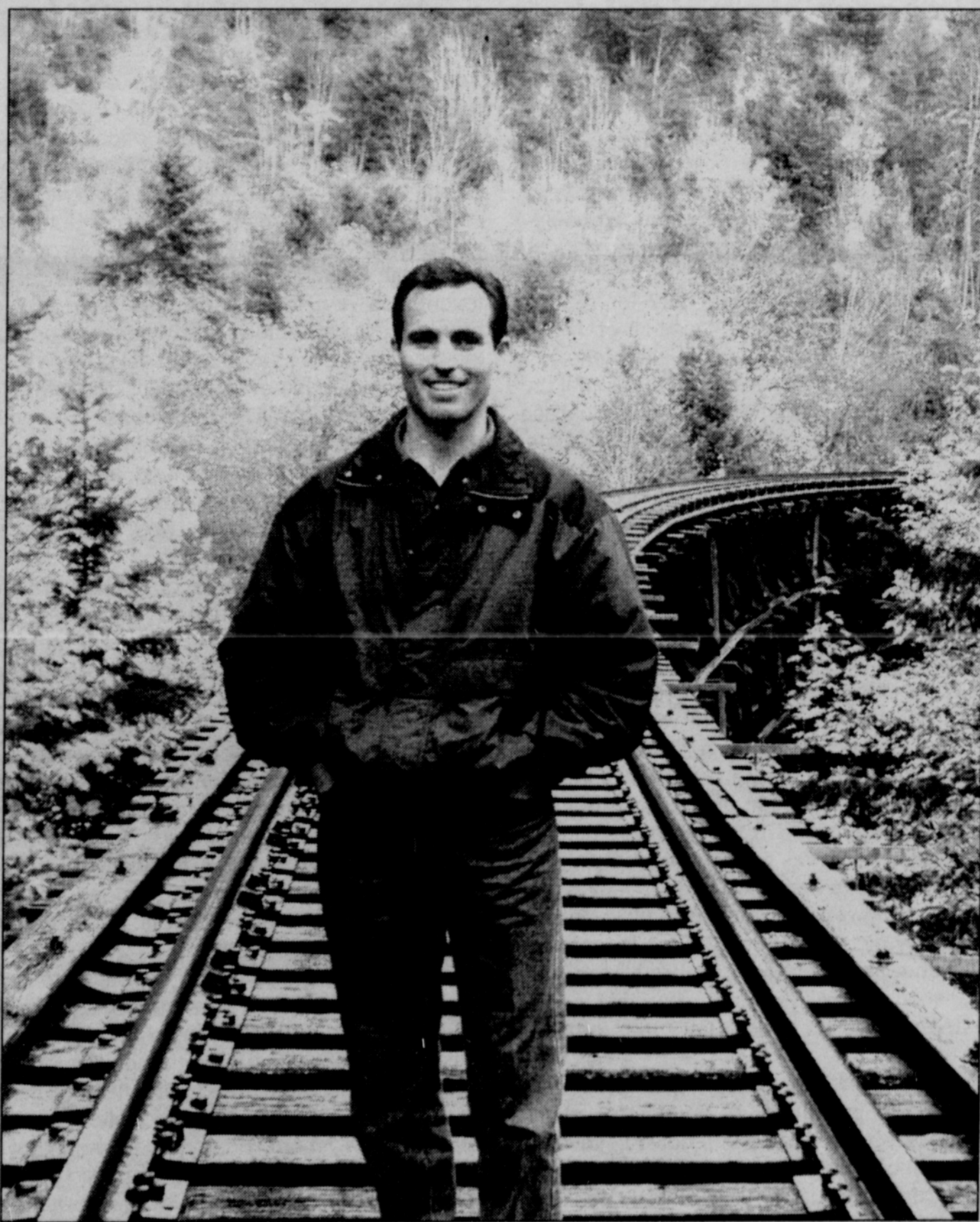
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Punk, Rotten & Nasty



No, we're not speaking of author Paul Clock, pictured here on a trestle crossing Hwy. 47 south of Vernonia, but of his book, *Punk, Rotten & Nasty, The Saga of Pacific Railway & Navigation Co.*, which once used the trestle. For more information on this Hillsboro to Tillamook rail line, please see page 13.

Three elected to Banks City Council

Ryan Burr led the field of five candidates for three positions on the Banks City Council, with 275 votes. Teri Branstetter was second with 247, followed closely by Kathleen Murdoch at 242. Jeannette Garnsey, 208,

and Brendan Warren, 116, completed the field.

In a sort of musical chairs, Burr will be sworn in at the December Council meeting to fill the vacancy left by Robert Orłowski, who was appointed to

fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mayor Raymond Deeth. In January, Burr and the other councilor-elects will take their own positions, as will Orłowski, who was the sole candidate for mayor.

Voters pick Hyde, Corsiglia, Leonetti

Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde overcame an early lead by Democrat challenger Shawna Sykes to retain his seat for a second term. Sykes, of Scappoose, garnered 39 percent of the votes cast in the three-way race for Position 3. Hyde, a Vernonia Republican, received 43 percent of the ballots. Constitution Party candidate Wayne Mayo, of St. Helens, captured 18 percent.

St. Helens Democrat Joe Corsiglia led from the beginning and easily outdistanced his opponents, Scappoose Republican Scott Burge and Paul Pulliam, an Independent from St. Helens.

Final unofficial results in the Vernonia Mayoral race show Mario Leonetti with 385 votes to Cindy Ball's 379. The "Too close to call" situation mirrored national conditions and took almost as long to determine the winner.

Randy Parrow and Glen Purvee were elected to the two open council positions. Parrow got the nod on 588 ballots and Purvee on 334. A third candidate, Charles Collins, received 199 votes.

All county-wide ballot measures went down to defeat — levies for the county fair and county parks, and a measure to increase the depletion fee on gravel extraction.

Vernonia Council decides to monitor court for now

The Vernonia City Council, which has been considering establishment of a Municipal Court, has agreed to postpone further plans, while directing City Administrator Mike Sykes to monitor the county Justice Court for the next six months.

Council members and many community members have expressed dissatisfaction with Justice of the Peace Rod McLean, who was unopposed for re-election to a second term. The primary concern appears to be the perception that McLean makes inadequate drug and alcohol referrals to Columbia Community Mental Health, resulting in the transfer of a well-liked counselor and the potential loss of a much needed service. McLean says that he can't make referrals at all, but can only require that defendants be evaluated.

Two additional factors contribute to the council's hesitation. One is the cost of operat-

ing a court, even if it just for traffic offenses. If the city established a court at this time, it would have to take operating capital from its Contingency Fund, which is already inadequate in case of a major emergency. Postponing the decision allows time to budget for a court in the next fiscal year, if the council deems it appropriate.

The second factor is whether residents would be ill-served by having to go to St. Helens for everything except minor traffic offenses. There is no adequate public transportation between Vernonia and St. Helens because Colco Transportation can make the trip just once weekly. One reason for the establishment of the Justice Court was to eliminate that problem.

The next council meeting, on Nov. 20, will be preceded by a 6:00 p.m. hearing on a request for annexation of 32-plus acres.