

Some fire districts have competition for positions

Vernonia Fire District

Two vacancies and three candidates for VFD.

Don Webb has filed for re-election to Position 1.

Steve Weller and William L. Cota will vie for Position 5. Weller, a former Vernonia Fire Chief, is a self-employed log truck owner/operator. Cota is a dump truck driver.

Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District

There is no competition here, with four candidates and

four positions.

Stephen Butsko, a forester and pulp buyer, has filed for a vacant Position 1.

Bill deJager is seeking Position 3; incumbent Paul Ramsey did not file.

Position 4 incumbent Randy Hansen did not seek re-election, it will be filled by Ernie deRoacher, who is self-employed.

Raymond E. Kyser, Position 5 incumbent, filed for re-election. He is a logger.

Tri-City Fire District

Tri-City Fire District has five candidates for three openings.

Position 1 incumbent Joe Evers, a dairy farmer, is being challenged by Rodney Linz, a firefighter/EMT. Linz has experience with the North Plains City Council and Budget Committee. Evers is also on the board of the Banks School District.

Steven Harr, who has 10 years with the district, is seeking Position 3. Harr is owner/op-

erator of Champion Signs and has also served on the Banks Planning Commission. He will be challenged by Edmond Earl Evey, a logger and business owner.

Appointee/incumbent Mark Schmidlin is unopposed for election to Position 4. He is a farmer and has served 15 years on the district's budget committee.

Elsie-Vine Maple Fire District

No one filed.

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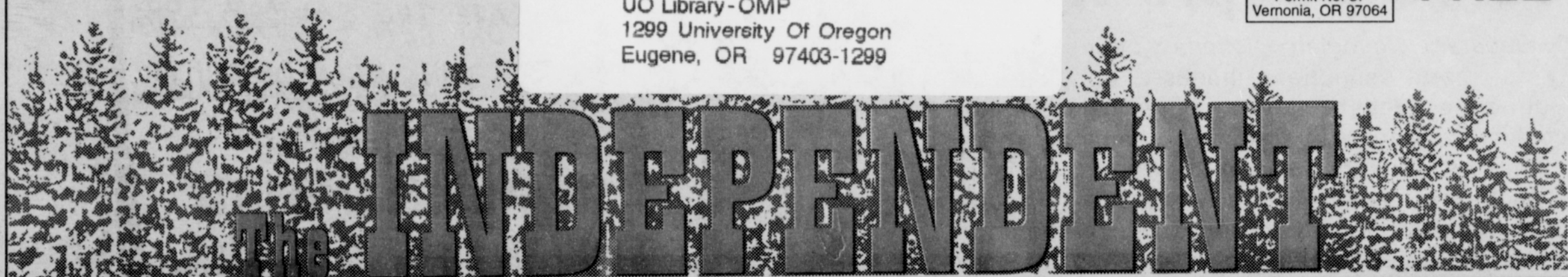
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Hoop time



There was no school on Monday, the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., but the covered play structure at Washington Grade School was busy all day with rousing games of pickup basketball.

School boards draw many candidates

Vernonia School District 47J

Vernonia School District voters will have a full slate to choose from, with races in four of the five positions on the March 13 ballot.

Schann Nelson, Position 1 incumbent, owns and operates an electrical business with her husband. Her opponent, Rick Hobart is a meter reader for West Oregon Electric Co-op.

Position 4 incumbent Leslie O'Leary is bookkeeper for Gwin & Sons Logging. She will be facing Randall Hansen, who is a log quality manager for Longview Fibre Co.

Position 5 incumbent Cari Levenseller, a homemaker, will face contractor Peter Brock.

Incumbent Kim Tierney did not file for re-election to Position 6. The sole candidate for the vacant seat is James Krahn, ex-director of Oregon Dairy Farmers Association.

Board chairman Jeff Blum has filed for re-election to Position 7. Blum is an engineer. Also seeking Position 7 is Thomas Jones, a logger with Holce Logging Co., Inc.

Positions 1, 4, 6 and 7 are four-year terms; Position 5 is a two-year term. There have been no filings to date, but all incumbents have indicated they will file for re-election except Tierney, who has not indicated her intent.

Banks School District 13

Three Banks School board positions will be on the March 13 ballot. All positions are for four-year terms.

Spencer Vandehey, Position 1 incumbent did not file for re-election. A three-way race has developed, however, with Douglas A. Nordholm, Ann Krut-

singer and Duane Lundsten all filing for the vacant spot.

Nordholm is an account executive/insurance agent with Waltz Sheridan Crawford, Inc. He is also a member of the district's budget committee.

Krutsinger is a library assistant at Banks Library and is treasurer of Friends of the Banks Library. Formerly self-employed, she is a homemaker and mother.

Lundsten, an information systems manager, is also on the school district budget committee and serves on the technology curriculum advisory panel of Banks High School.

Incumbent Willis Meeuwesen, a farmer and three-term board member, has filed for re-election to Position 2.

Position 4 incumbent Joe Evers also seeks re-election. A dairy farmer, he serves on the Portland Community College agriculture advisory board and is a long-time member of the Tri-City Fire Board.

Jewell School District

Three positions will be decided on the Jewell School board.

Loren Jacobsen is the sole candidate for Position 1. Incumbent Joseph Budai is not seeking re-election.

Position 2 incumbent Carolyn Eady is being challenged by Darren Berg.

In Position 5, David Samuelson is seeking the seat held by Ulrich G. Schockelt.

The next issue of *The INDEPENDENT*, on February 7, will contain more information, and so far as is possible, pictures of the candidates.

February 20 is the last day to register to vote in the March 13 vote-by mail election.

WOEC modernizes switches

By Jim Buxton

West Oregon Electric Coop (WOEC) Engineer Steve Hursh showed the Board of Directors, at their January meeting, new computerized recloser switches. Reclosers are like high-voltage, high-current, circuit breakers used in power transmission and distribution lines. Hursh displayed three generations of switches. The oldest generation was hydraulically operated and the second generation added current measurement. The newest switches contain a mini-computer that measures voltage and current, and estimates distance to a fault, if one occurs. It can telephone the office if some-

thing noteworthy happens, such as a tree limb contacting the line. It can also measure kilowatt hour usage, and can be monitored from the office at any time. The switches will be installed at substations and other critical areas. The cost of the switches is expected to be recouped by providing more information about line health and faults before line crews leave the shop.

WOEC also purchased equipment that filters insulating transformer oil while substation transformers continue to operate. The cost of the equipment was almost the same as having the service done by an outside vendor. Clean oil has a high di-

electric strength or high insulating value, and contaminants lower the strength. Substation transformers are very expensive, and when the dielectric strength of the insulating oil drops low enough, arcing can occur, leading to possible damage to the transformer.

General Manager Russell Green reported that BPA's implementation of the slice, at present, seems to be less unfavorable than previously feared. "Slice" is a term referring to a "slice" of the block of power purchased by a consortium of power companies. The slice is still an option for WOEC, with at least two opportunities in the future to change its mind.