

More Letters...

From page 3

Local events shown now on public cable

To the Editor:

I hope that many of you in town have been enjoying seeing things happening around Vernonia on our own channel 7. I have filmed basketball games, city council meetings, David Wu's visit, the school board candidates and more. There is a buzz out there and people are talking about this. I do apologize for the volume when it is being aired. Just turn your volume up for now and, hopefully, this will be something that I can remedy fairly soon.

I would like to inform you how this process works. I film events in town and send the VHS tape with our city administrator, Mike Sykes, as he lives near the guy that runs the cable station in St. Helens. Mike drops the tape at Chuck Purvis' house. Chuck prepares the Vernonia tape on Mondays and sends it to the County Commissioners meeting on Wednesday for Tony Hyde to bring back here to Vernonia. Tony gets it to me and I give it to our own CATV to put into play, which is not always on that same day. Why don't we just mail it? The answer is cost. The cable station runs on donated money and usually does not have a lot of money to run its business/function/etc. It is because of this transportation issue of tapes being sent here and there, that we do not always get functions on channel 7 in as timely of a manner as I would like to see. Hopefully, this will get better with time as the bugs get worked out, but for the time being, I am grateful this is even happening.

This brings me to my next subject which is one of recruitment. Currently, I am doing all of the filming, etc., and would love some help. You do not have to be an ace camera operator. At this point, I am using my own personal camcorder, which is just a bottom of the line model. I am no professional photographer, by any means. It is really very simple to do and the hardest part of all is remembering that you can't talk while filming or everything you say is on television for everyone to hear. By filming, you can be in touch with what is going on in Vernonia and allowing these things to reach the homes of people who maybe can't get out or are just too tired to leave their home after a long day at work.

I would like to put out a plea to anyone who might be interested in helping with this endeavor. I am working on getting a better and bigger camera from the cable station. We do need to do something about the volume issue. If you are interested, call Donna Gehrke at 503-429-5201.

The television viewing times for Vernonia are Sunday, 1-5 pm, Monday 4-8 pm, Tues-

day, 12-4 pm, Wednesday, 5-9 pm, Thursday, 5-9 am, Friday, 10-2 pm and Saturday, 9-1 am.

I am working on getting these times changed, as well. I would like to see it play 5-9 pm weekdays and 9-1 pm weekends or something similar. At least that way, it is more consistent every day and if you miss it, you can just record it. Remember that if you cannot donate time, we will always take money to buy much needed supplies like an additional deck for Vernonia so we can have more than just four hours a day of viewing.

Donna Gehrke
Vernonia

Jamboree planning is getting underway

To the Editor:

The Friendship Jamboree needs the help of the citizens of Vernonia. I have been on the committee for the last three years and, each year, the committee has had to scramble around to find enough people to do just the basics.

Over the years, I can't count the times I have heard someone criticize how poorly the Jamboree has been run. Remember, when you point your finger, there are three pointing back at you. It takes the commitment of the community to execute a community event. I hope this year, each business, especially the ones that receive a direct benefit from the Jamboree, have at least one individual active in the planning and execution of the Jamboree.

No levy, Banks Council decides; will try to reduce expenditures and deficit

After lengthy discussion, the Banks City Council agreed last month that they are not interested in pursuing a one-year levy to eliminate a large deficit. Council members felt that the public would not support the 51 percent increase in property taxes that a one year levy would require.

Mayor Bob Orlowski projected a deficit of \$120,000 to \$125,000 at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2001. After reviewing all expenditures, Orlowski said he understands how the city achieved the monumental deficit.

He also updated new councilors on the acquisition and sale of property at 140 Market

Street for which the city paid \$80,000. Plans to use the property for the Police Department became unnecessary when the State Police moved out of city premises. The city then sold the property for \$70,000 on a three-year contract, with a monthly payment of \$500. The city will not realize much return from the sale for 2-1/2 to three years.

City attorney Jim Lucas has been researching potential the consequences of the city's continuing to operate at a deficit. State budget law places limitations on local budgets, but the consequences of deficit operation are not clear.

Lucas is concerned that pre-

vious inter-fund borrowing, if found to be in violation of state law, could result in a legal challenge to the city. Council asked for clarification of what authority or agency they need to respond to or request help from.

Three measures were approved to further reduce the deficit, including:

- Discontinuing janitorial services for police department and city hall, saving \$135/month.

Installing programmable but manually controlled thermostats in city hall/police department to allow heat to be reduced or turned off when building is empty. Natural gas bill was \$158 last month. The new equipment will cost \$110 plus installation fees.

Discontinue paying for mowing and general clean up at Boy Scout Park. Councilor Gary Coffey volunteered to get this work done, saving \$35-\$50 per month.

The council's next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m.

I urge you to attend the meeting at Lew's Place on Thursday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. and volunteer to be a part of this year's Friendship Jamboree. Without your support, there may not be a future for the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree.

Randy Parrow
Vernonia

Candidate feels he was treated unfairly

To the Editor:

To better inform voters of my candidacy my previous letter [Ed. note: The letter referred to wasn't printed because we can't give any more space to Mr. Jones, but we want to leave his criticism.] was text that was written in response to the original questionnaire sent to all candidates.

It was a misunderstanding on my part that my thoughts would be shared as written. I recognize space limitations and your need to summarize, paraphrase, and omit. I am certain that it was your intent to be fair and give equal paper space to all candidates. However, through summary, omissions, and otherwise wording you give a very good editorial with strong biases throughout the entire list of candidates. It would be a recommendation of mine that in future elections when soliciting candidate's opinions as a public service please give them a word limit and print as written and leave the editorials to a separate article.

Please see page 14

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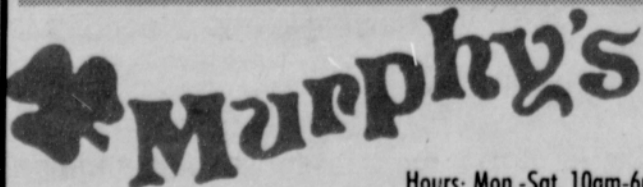
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Jim Walsh