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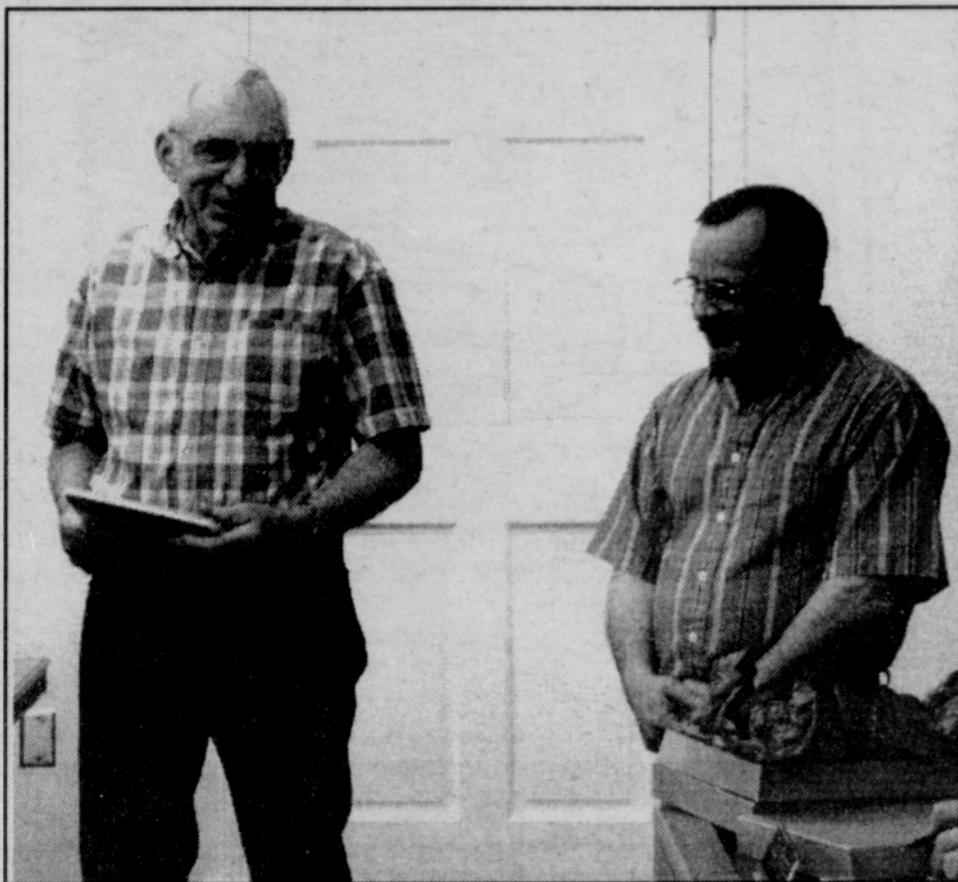
FREE

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# The INDEPENDENT



Don Webb was presented with a plaque Monday night expressing appreciation for his lengthy volunteer services on behalf of the community. Mayor Mario Leonetti presented the plaque.



Donna Gehrke was awarded a plaque of appreciation for her unstinting efforts on behalf of the community. In addition to Mayor Mario Leonetti, Councilor Shirlee Daughtry spoke of the reasons for honoring Gehrke.

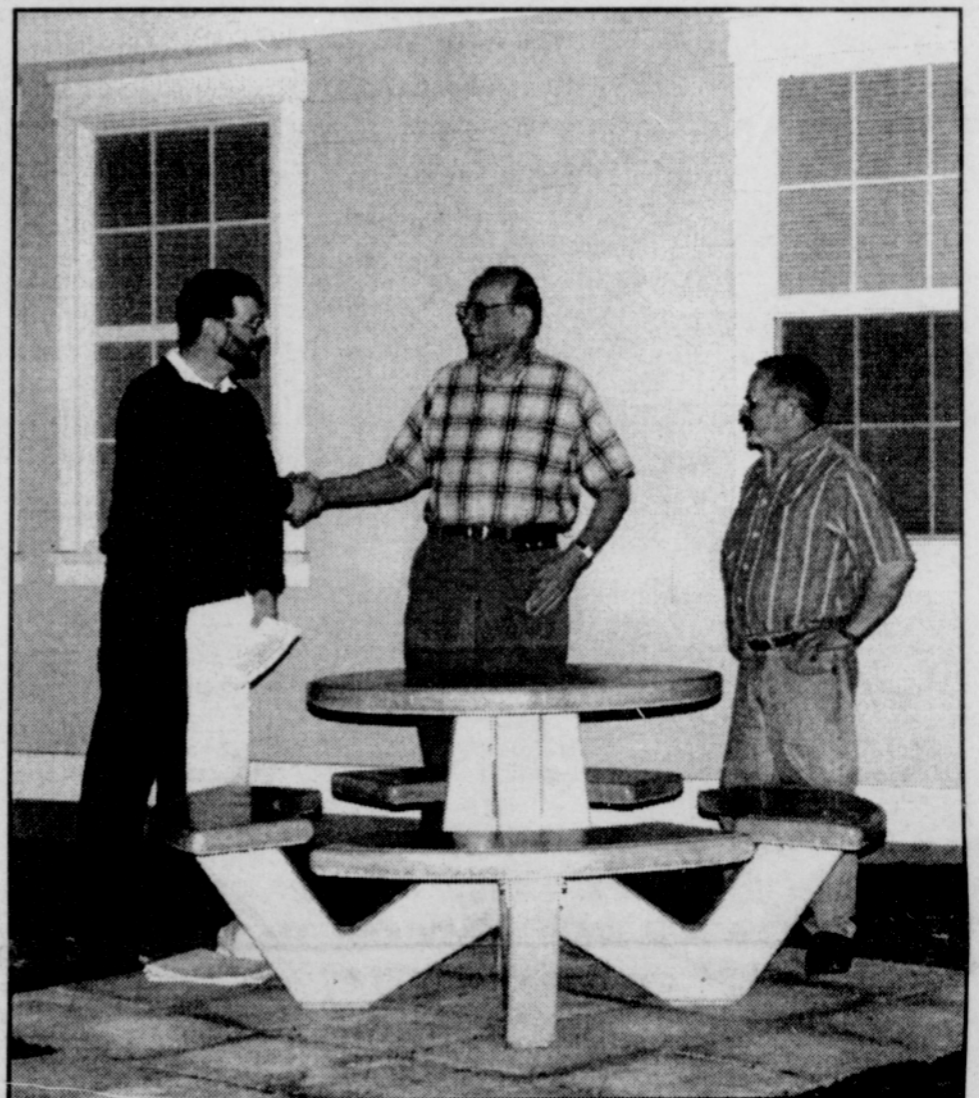
## Three honored by Council for contributions to the community

Former Mayor Art Parrow and former volunteer firefighter Don Webb were honored Monday night by the Vernonia City Council for their many years of volunteer efforts on behalf of the community. Also honored was Donna Gehrke, a relative newcomer who has lived in Vernonia for only a few years, but who has thrown herself wholeheartedly into community endeavors.

Parrow, a retired educator who served first as principal and then as superintendent in the Vernonia School District, has volunteered his time and expertise for the 30-plus years he has lived here. He is a long-time member of the Lions and most recently served on the city planning commission, then as mayor.

Webb has lived in Vernonia much longer, and was a volunteer firefighter for forty years. Now the retired logger serves on the board of directors of the Vernonia Rural Fire District. He is an avid outdoorsman and has worked especially hard at making improvements at Vernonia Lake. Webb was the driving force behind the handicapped-accessible floating piers recently installed at the lake.

Gehrke is in good company, but she got there through hard work. Her name is on the adopt-a-highway sign on N. Mist Drive and on the adopt-a-



Former Mayor Art Parrow accepts congratulations Monday night from his son, Randy, who is now a city council member, and Mayor Mario Leonetti. The picnic table and benches shown here have been installed behind City Hall in honor of the senior Parrow's extensive volunteer efforts.

block plaque next to Buds & Blooms. She works with Vernonia Pride and is spearheading the 2001 Make Vernonia Shine day on April 21. Gehrke also is videotaping many community functions for showing on the local cable television channel.

*The efforts of Don and DeDe Webb will receive official recognition in a few weeks when the recently completed Linear Trail extension is formally dedicated as Webb Way.*

## Council is "cream of the crop," citizen proclaims

The Vernonia City Council is doing such a good job said Jeta Gomes at the March 19 meeting, that she doesn't attend meetings because she isn't worried about actions they will take. Gomes was responding to a letter from Councilor Glenn Purvee that was published in *The INDEPENDENT* on March 7, chiding city residents for an apathetic attitude.

Mayor Mario Leonetti and Councilor Shirlee Daughtry care deeply about the community, Gomes said and always try to do their best; Randy Parrow, though new to the council, "comes from good stock," Gomes teased. Councilor Cindy Ball always has good questions, she continued, and "from your letter, I can tell I don't need to worry about you,"

she told Purvee.

"Our council is the cream of the crop, so I can do other things beside coming to council meetings," Gomes said.

The city has been awarded a conditional Community Development Block Grant of \$15,000 to complete a study for a new senior center. The grant is conditional because the state doesn't yet know what changes there may be in the U.S. Housing and Urban Development agency and whether the funds will be available.

Vernonia Airport Manager Mike Seager reported that the preliminary Airport Master Plan is complete. It will be reviewed to be certain it meets federal and state criteria and, if needed, modified at that time.

## Final District election results

Vernonia School District Board of Directors will see two new directors in July as a result of the March 13 election. Rick Hobart was elected to Position 1, which is currently held by Schann Nelson, and James Krahn, who was unopposed, was elected to Position 6.

Incumbents Leslie O'Leary, Cari Levenseller and Jeff Blum were re-elected to positions 4, 5 and 7, respectively. Challengers for the three positions, in the same order, were Randall Hansen, Peter Brock and Thomas Jones.

There will be one new director on the Banks School Board, with Doug Nordholm winning Position 1 over Ann Krutsinger and Duane Lundsten.

Incumbents Willis Meeuwesen in Position 2 and Joe Evers in Position 4, were unopposed.

Evers was also re-elected to Position 1 on the Tri-City Fire

District Board of Directors, barely holding off a tough challenge by Rodney Linz.

Steve Harr was elected to Position 3 over Ed Evey and Mark Schmidlin was unopposed in his re-election bid for Position 4.

In the Vernonia Fire District, former fire chief Steve Weller won over Bill Cota for a vacant Position 5. Don Webb was unopposed for re-election to Posi-

tion 1.

There was no opposition for directors positions in the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District. Steve Butsko will hold Position 1, Bill DeJager in Position 3, Ernie DeRocher in Position 4 and Ray Kyser in Position 5.

As has been the rule in recent years in the Elsie-Vine Maple Fire District, no one filed and the positions were filled by

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