

Business Notes

Redistricting Committee seeks input from citizens around state

The state Senate and House committees charged with redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries have outlined their schedule for taking public comment on redistricting. In addition to taking public testimony during committee meetings at the State Capitol, the committees will be traveling around the state to get input from Oregonians. The two committees are working in a bi-partisan manner to receive public testimony over the next two months and will travel to at least 11 different locations around Oregon during that time.

Wyden puts together guide to loans and grants for rural areas

Senator Ron Wyden unveiled a new publication, *The Information Superhighway: Building a New Oregon Trail*. Subtitled "A Road Map to Technology Grants for Rural Communities," the guide is designed to assist communities across Oregon in their efforts to obtain technology grants for business, health care, education and other purposes.

"Just as the original Oregon Trail linked our state to the rest of America, a New Oregon Trail can link our small rural communities with the rest of the world," said Wyden. "This guide gives folks specific information needed to make successful grant applications and join the telecommunications revolution right alongside America's larger cities."

The guide provides listings and background facts for government and non-government agencies offering technology grants. Its easy-to-follow format also includes information on how grant monies may be used, deadlines, the dollar amounts of similar grants Oregon has received in the past and contact names and numbers.

Wyden's guide to technology grants has been more than a year in the making. It sprang from a Rural Infrastructure Conference hosted by the Senator. Among other topics, the conference highlighted the growing gap in telecommunications access between Oregon's rural communities and more populous areas. Wyden's staff compiled the grants guide to help communities from John Day to Vernonia "cut away the red tape" to grow small businesses, offer distance learning opportunities, improve health care with telemedicine and use telecommunications technology in ways routinely found in more urban settings. The Association of Oregon Counties and the Oregon Rural Development Council have endorsed the guide, calling it a "valuable tool for communities."

The 1999 Rural Infrastructure Conference brought together leaders of technology and rural development, along with county commissioners,

The 2000 Census shows that Oregon grew by nearly 600,000 people since the 1990 census. The legislature is responsible for redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries to reflect both population growth and the movement of people from some parts of the state to others.

According to committee members, they want to hear suggestions and reasons for moving legislative and congressional district lines from as many members of the public as possible.

Rep. Carl Wilson, (R-Grants Pass) is Chair of the House

city managers, members of private industry and Federal and State agency officials.

Communities represented at the Conference will receive a copy of *The Information Superhighway: Building a New Oregon Trail*; other communities and organizations may request the guide by calling Senator Wyden's Eugene office at 541-431-0229.

Business Expo plans underway

Saturday, June 2, has been chosen for a Vernonia Business and Community Groups Expo. Though still in the planning stage, the Expo will provide a forum for businesses of all types - in-home, commercial, contractor, etc. - and civic organizations to promote their products and/or services and, at the same time, raise funds for Vernonia Cares Food Bank.

Each participating business will also be urged to raffle something at the Expo, with the proceeds from each raffle going to a local non-profit organization or activity of their choice (Scouts, Churches, Vernonia Pride, Memorial Cemetery, for example.)

Suggestions for the tables or booths include brochures, business cards, posters, backdrops, sign-up sheets, merchandise lists, and other advertising that will help the public become familiar with the products and services available in this area.

Only the date has been selected; location and times will be decided soon.

Space may be reserved by calling (503) 429-1414 and leaving a message. The cost will be \$25.00 and payment may be sent to:

Vernonia Cares
P.O. Box 126
Vernonia, OR 97064
(please include name, address, phone number and e-mail address)

Expo Committee members include Ben and Lisa Edgar, Lauri Jerman, Cindy Smejkel, Patty Fogel and Sandy DeWeber. For further information, call Lisa Edgar at (503) 429-4013.

Committee on Rules, Redistricting and Public Affairs. Other House members are Rep. Richard Devlin, (D-Lake Oswego) Vice-Chair, and Rep. Dan Doyle, (D) Vice-Chair.

Sen. Steve Harper, (R-Klamath Falls) chairs the Senate Committee on Rules and Redistricting, with Vice-Chair Sen. Peter Courtney, (D-Salem).

The committees will meet at different locations around the state as follows:

March 23 in Medford
March 30 in Bend
April 3 in Newport
April 6 in Coos Bay
April 10 in Eugene
April 13 in Hillsboro, Beaverton, Gresham, Portland
April 17 in Oregon City
April 20 in Woodburn

Time has also been set aside each week to accept public testimony during the regularly scheduled committee meetings on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the House Committee on Rules, Redistricting and Public Affairs.

Radio club elects officers for year

Patrick Murphy was elected Feb. 20 as the new President of the Vernonia Amateur Radio Klub. The new Vice President is Lee Seibert; secretary will be Norm Roberts. Ed Johnson and Mike Fudge were re-elected.

VARK meets at the Vernonia Fire Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in "ham" radio is invited to attend the meetings. For more information, call Norm Roberts at 503-429-2405.

Berg completes FEMA course

Ann Berg of the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Department completed the National Fire Academy's Command and Control of Incident Operations course in Emmitsburg, Maryland, this month. In this course, volunteer fire officers are introduced to the Incident Command System.

They study fire command techniques for control and extinguishment of fires ranging from small, residential structures to multi-occupancy, commercial complexes. Special emphasis is placed on firefighter safety.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) promotes the professional development of our nation's emergency personnel through programs offered by the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy and the Emergency Management Institute. FEMA's training goals are to enhance the capability at the community level and to better prepare for emergencies by improving technical competence and public policy perspective of key emergency managers and staff.

tracting and Public Affairs, and on Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Senate Committee on Rules and Redistricting. Contact committee staff for additional information on procedures to submit testimony at any of the above meetings.

The legislature will use the criteria outlined in law for redistricting legislative and congressional districts including contiguity, equal population, use of

existing geographic or political boundaries, not dividing communities of interest, and connection by transportation links. The criteria also specify that no district may be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legislator, or other person, and that a district may not be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group.

Jamboree theme contest starts up

The Vernonia Friendship Jamboree Theme Contest is open and waiting for your suggestion. If you have an idea for the 2001 Jamboree theme, mail it to Vernonia Friendship Jamboree, P. O. Box 244, Vernonia, OR 97064. The winning entry will receive a \$50 savings bond. The winning theme will be announced in the May 2 issue of *The Independent*.

The next meeting of the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree Committee will be on March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at Lew's Place. Please

mark your calendars and plan on attending.

The agenda will include election of president and vice-president, Grand Marshall and Citizen of the Year nominations, committee assignments and new business from the floor.

The Jamboree Committee would like all businesses that directly benefit from the Jamboree to have an active role in the planning and execution of this year's festivities. Civic groups and other interested parties are also invited to take an active role.

Sunnyside Cafe



Daily Lunch & Breakfast Specials

ORDERS TO GO: 503-429-4810

Open Daily 5 am-2 pm • 58360 Nehalem Hwy. S., Vernonia

Creative Impulse Espresso Bar & Deli

HOT, ICED & BLENDED DRINKS & TEA
PASTRIES • MUFFINS • COOKIES • BAGELS
SANDWICHES • SALADS • SOUPS • CHILI • CHILI DOGS
DELI OPENS 11:00 A.M.

Nail & Tanning Appointments Available • Walk-ins Welcome

REG HOURS: Mon 6a-12:30p • Tu-F 6a-5p • Sa 7a-5p • Su 8a-2p
854 BRIDGE ST., VERNONIA • 503-429-9011

Serenity Gardens Herbs



A Unique Shop Celebrating Our Spirit Within

Full Size Batiks ♦ Crystals ♦ Dream Pillows
New Selection of Beaded Curtains

Beautiful Amber Jewelry ♦ Handmade Pillows
Candles ♦ Evening Bags for Prom ♦ Rune Sets
Custom Cloaks ♦ Tie-Dye Clothing ♦ Sarongs

Custom Blended Bath Salts
Essential Oils ♦ Soothing Herbal Balms
New: Faerie Flowers Herbal Facial Scrub
Large Variety of Incense & Burners

Teas and Herbs
Garden Statuary and Fountains
Oil Paintings by Christine ♦ More Unique Items
Coming Soon: Handmade Glass Beads

Mon - Fri 8 am - 4 pm • Sat 10 am - 6 pm
998 Bridge Street, Vernonia • 503-429-4064