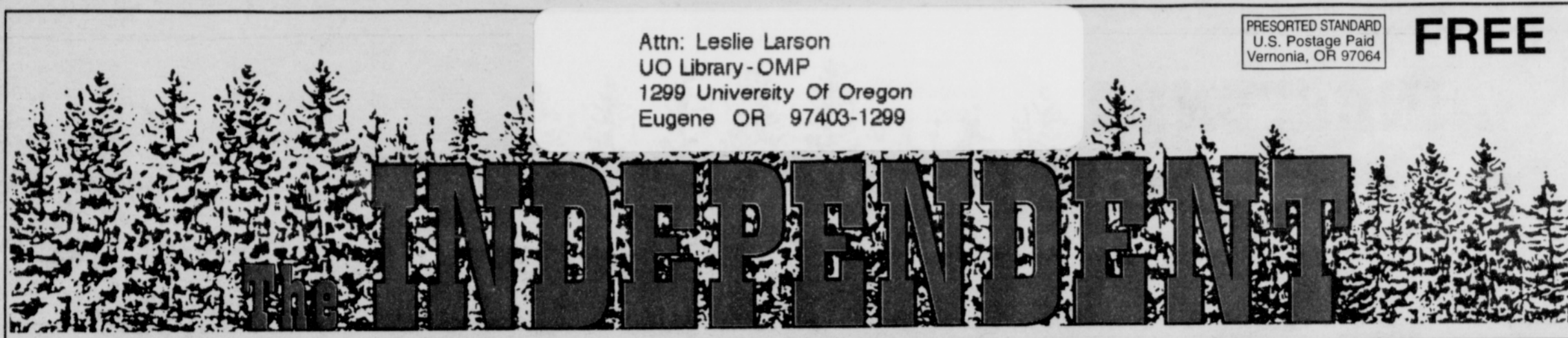


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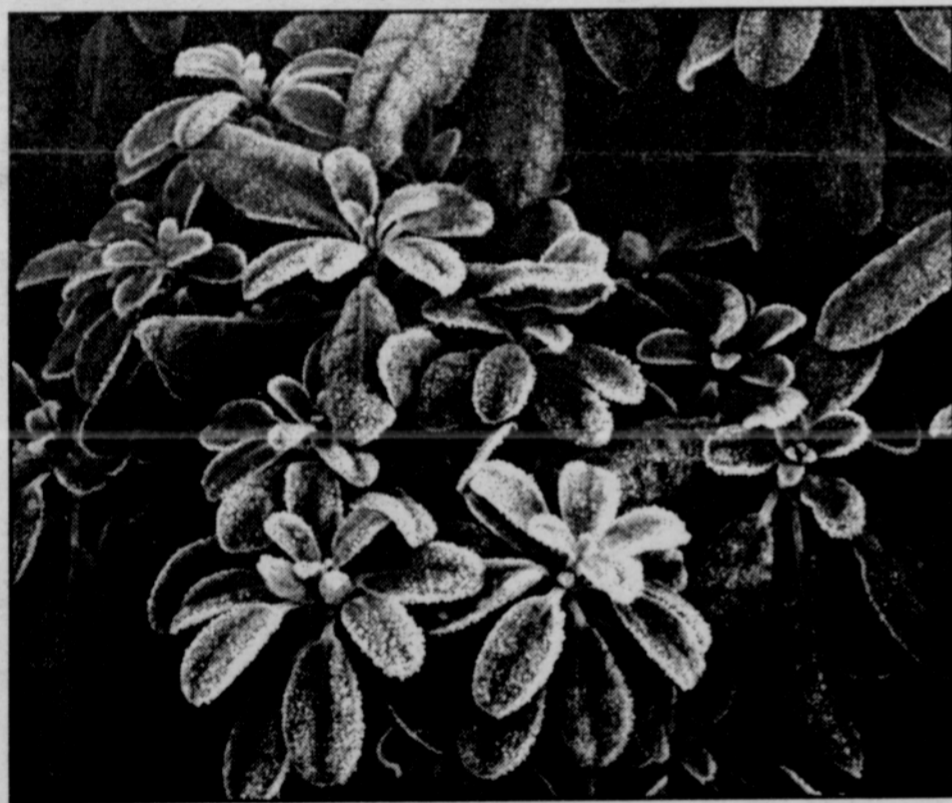
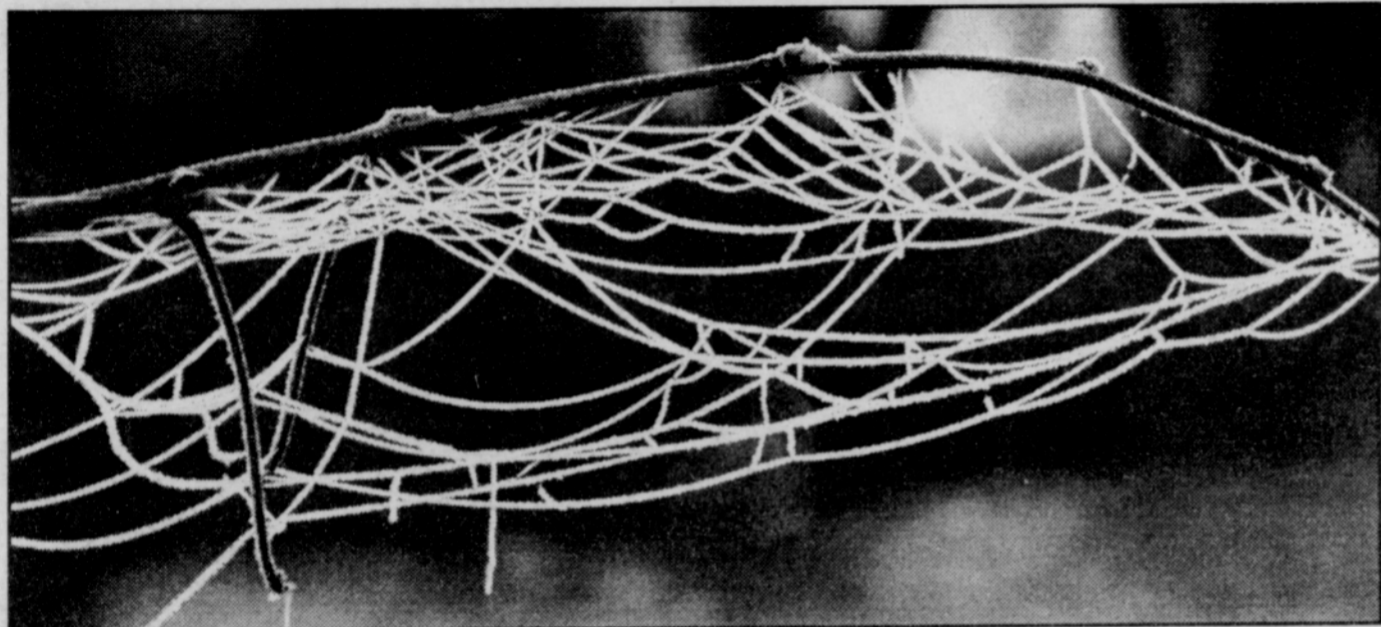


Vol. 17, No. 2

"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

January 16, 2002

Nature's silver touch



Local temperatures in the low 20s transformed the appearance of some everyday sights, with the frost-laden spider web, above, looking like woven strands of platinum, while the rhododendron at left appears to be blooming in the middle of winter.

More cold weather is forecast with, perhaps, a small amount of snow.

Councilor explains background of KKK

Because one line on a sign that listed historic events in Vernonia has attracted unwarranted media attention, Vernonia City Councilor Shirlee Daughtrey explained at the Jan. 7 meeting, that the Ku Klux Klan came to Vernonia in 1922 along with personnel for the Oregon-American Lumber Company.

"They were from the south, they brought it with them and that was the way they were," Daughtrey said, "but Vernonia is not racist." Daughtrey, who is nearing her 65th birthday, is the only member of the city council who was born and raised in Vernonia.

The councilors generally felt that media reaction to a letter in *The Independent* that asked about the entry on the sign, was ridiculous or insulting, or both.

In other business, the Council was pleased to hear that its financial house is in good order in more ways than one.

After months of negotiation and a session with a mediator, the City and the association that represents the City's police officers have finally reached a collective bargaining agreement. The new contract is basically the same as that accepted by the municipal workers, with a cost of living raise of about three percent and additional increases based only merit. The police association had been seeking a package of increases that would have totalled about nine-and-one-half percent.

The annual audit report

made only one corrective suggestion – for improved use of the utility billing software – and expressed pleasure at the work of finance clerk Cindy Naillon.

Council agreed to amend regulations prohibiting gasoline motors on boats on Vernonia Lake so Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters could practice with a rescue boat that was donated to the district. The former U.S. Coast Guard rescue boat was donated to the local fire district by the Forest Grove Fire Department. The ordinance will be reviewed and the practice sessions will be limited under the modifications, including a "no wake" provision.

Public hearings set on Vernonia market analysis

There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions at two public hearings on the Vernonia Marketing & Business Analysis, prepared by the Oregon Downtown Development Association. This analysis is particularly important to downtown businesses and property owners.

The first hearing will be on February 7, at 6:30 p.m., before the Vernonia Planning Commission. The second hearing, before the City Council, will be on February 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Both hearings will be held in the Council Chambers at Vernonia City Hall.

Vibrant downtown is vision for Banks

Citizens of Banks had an opportunity to see their community in a new way at a meeting presenting the work of an Oregon Downtown Development Association (ODDA) resource team on January 11. An exciting vision showed the future of the downtown area as an active, vibrant central hub for community life.

The ODDA team is composed of specialists who review existing plans and studies and other information prior to visiting a town. The team conducted interviews with local business owners and residents, ex-

amined the business mix and development, public space design including streetscape, parking and traffic, private space, façade design, and downtown housing. The presentation included recommendations for development within an implementable and cohesive framework.

Brad Sinn, of ODDA, began the presentation by telling the audience that the key to successful growth is planning. According to Sinn, Banks is uniquely situated to capitalize on the traffic from the highways on either side of town. The area

defined as "downtown" begins at the five-way intersection of Sellers Road, Banks Road and Highway 47, and extends south along Main Street to the Scout Cabin.

Treva Hunter, of Marketek, spoke to nearly every business in town and said that she greatly enjoyed the positive, pedestrian friendly atmosphere. Her work examined the mix of businesses currently operating in the city, the lifestyle characteristics of the population, and the existing competitive advantages and disadvantages of the

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