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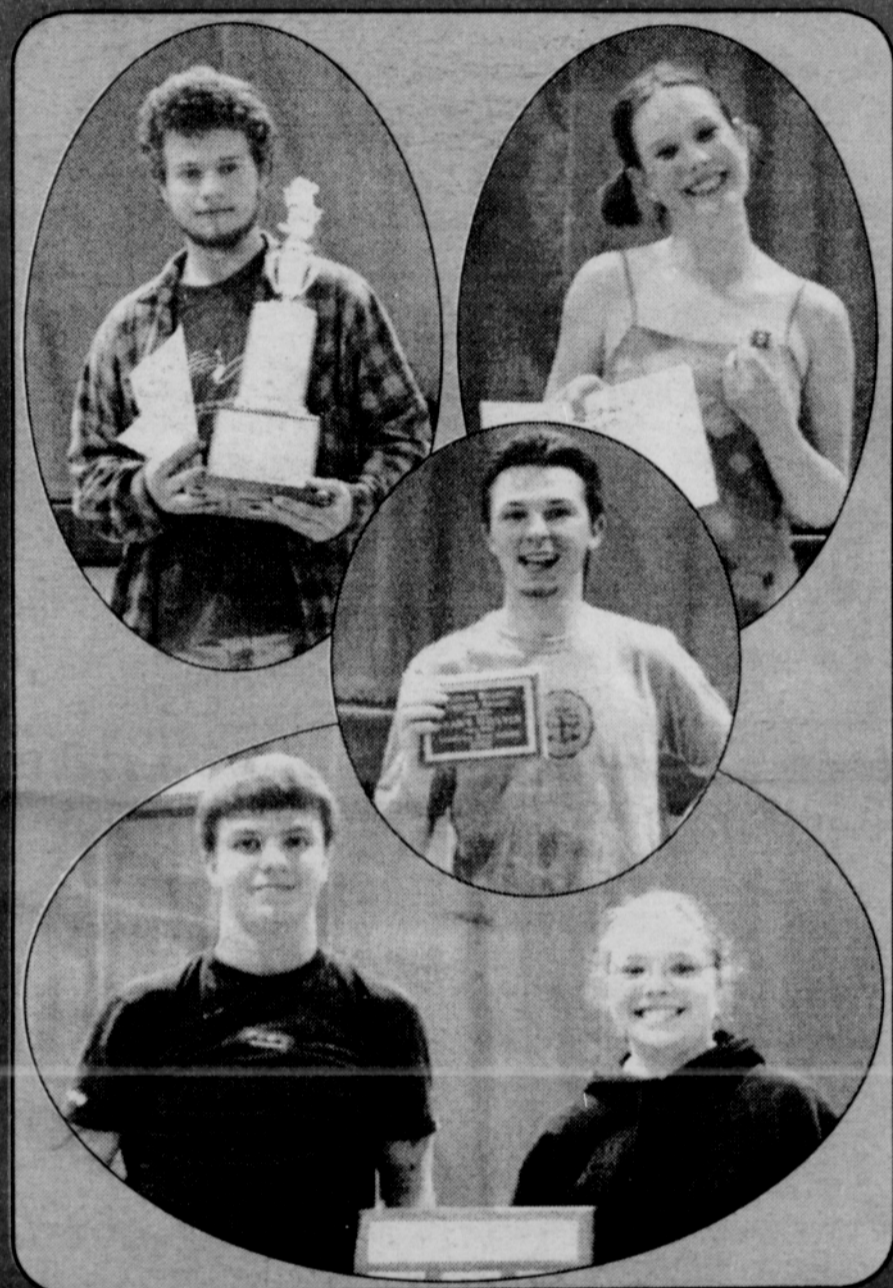
The INDEPENDENT

Vol. 17, No. 12

"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

June 20, 2002

Prizewinners



The front page of The INDEPENDENT is filled with photos of children who were recognized for various accomplishments. Their efforts and their warmth are a part of the reasons people love to live here.

City adopts marketing slogan

Adoption of a marketing slogan for the City of Vernonia and a touching presentation to Vernonia Police Chief Jim Walters were highlights of the June 17 council meeting. Council also awarded a paving contract and set dates for several meetings or workshops.

Discover Vernonia...Forests, Parks, Trails & Streams!

The slogan above was adopted by the City Council and will start appearing on promotional materials – brochures, videos, web site, etc. – as they are developed.

The presentation to Chief Walters had its roots in a trip by local kids to Washington, D.C. Among the parents who went with the DC Kids were Mike Hayes and Chris Cota. While visiting the memorial honoring police officers who died in the line of duty, Chris Cota realized that the name of Vernonia's late police chief, Ray Garcia, was included. While Cota was doing a "rubbing" of Garcia's name on the memorial, Hayes took photos of him and the memorial.

After returning home, they mounted several photos in one frame for the presentation to Walters, who was a reserve officer under Garcia. Helping with the presentation were Mike and

Collin Hayes, Chris, Kala and Kristin Cota, and Bryan Budge.

A contract for paving and upgrading a loop off of Bridge Street was awarded to Brix Paving Co. of Tualatin. The portions of Madison and Jefferson Avenues north of Bridge St., will be improved along with Shady Lane, which runs between the two.

The following meetings will be held:

- Council will hold a workshop and tour the city's wastewater facility at 5:30 p.m. on July 8th (No meeting on July 1st.). The public is welcome. Council meeting will follow.

- Town Hall meeting July 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for discussion of options for the historical museum. This meeting is being called by

local members of the Historical Society.

- Town Hall meeting to explain the city's water curtailment plan is set for Aug. 5 at a time to be announced later.

**Enjoy July 4th
in Vernonia**

Parade 7:30 p.m.

Register at City Hall

Boosters BBQ 6 pm

**Cotton Candy, Popcorn, etc.
Between VHS & WGS**

**Fireworks Display
at dusk**

**Bring blankets, spread out,
relax and enjoy an
Old-fashioned 4th!**

Interim superintendent takes responsibility at first of July

Monday, July 1, will be Mike Funderburg's first day as superintendent of Administrative School District 47J, more popularly known as Vernonia School District.

Funderburg has spent the past two years as superintendent at Culver, a long commute from his home in St. Helens. Prior to that, he was principal for two years at 650 student Scappoose High School and for five years at Sandy High School, where 1200 students are enrolled.

Culver, with about 600 students from kindergarten through 12th grade, was Funderburg's first exposure to operating in a small school district, and he was hooked.

"I like the small K-12 school district," Funderburg said. "I can really get to know the students and the community. People will see me in the schools," he said with a smile.

A native of Ashland, Funderburg graduated from Eagle

Point High School. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in secondary education at Southern Oregon University.



Mike Funderburg

Funderburg has been married to his high school sweetheart for 33 years. Their son teaches engineering in Japan, and their daughter teaches health at Sandy High School. The Funderburgs also have two grandchildren.

School board formally adopts budget

Retiring Superintendent Larry McClellan attended his 260th school board meeting June 13th, with most of the board's time spent dealing with a variety of financial issues. McClellan's final report to the board included an update on the work of the staff committee looking at the impact of multiple coaching assignments on the teaching curriculum. The committee has expanded the scope and will also collect information on how athletic/activities programs support the instructional program. They will bring a report and proposal to the board in

March. McClellan also told the board that the district liability insurance, previously renewed somewhat automatically without changes, would increase 30 percent. The new superintendent, Mike Funderburg, will be exploring options to reduce the cost and still provide the district with adequate liability coverage.

The board formally accepted donations totaling \$22,832, that were received throughout the current fiscal year. Local businesses and community members donated over \$5,400 for athletic programs, and more

than \$6,000 for the purchase of risers. Donations for technology were more than \$5,700, with a \$5,000 grant from the Gates Foundation and the remainder in cash and equipment donated by the community. The balance of the donations, \$5,684 was from local people and businesses and United Way of Columbia County.

With exception of three positions, the board approved administrative and confidential employees salaries at their present rate. In lieu of a raise or a cost of living adjustment (COLA),

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