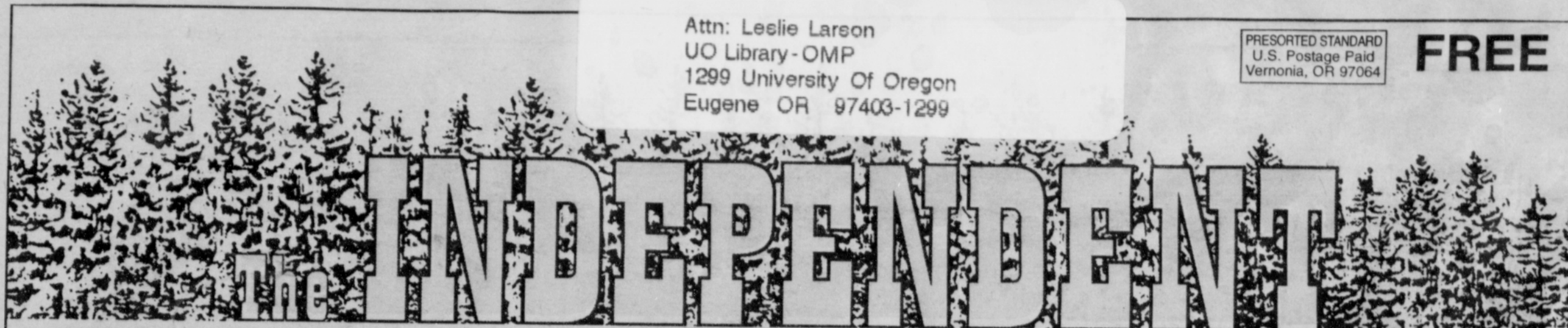


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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

April 17, 2003

A Spring Day...



A father and daughter enjoyed one of April's few dry days with a little time for fishing and fun at Vernonia Lake.

Wauna gets approval for local service area

Another step has been taken in the proposed merger of Vernonia Federal Credit Union with Wauna Federal Credit Union.

An expansion in WFCU's field of membership has been approved by the National Credit Union Administration, allowing the Clatskanie-based credit union to serve people who live, work, worship, or attend school anywhere in Clatsop and Columbia Counties. Also eligible are members of immediate families or households of current Wauna Federal members.

"Expanding our membership provides consumers in Clatsop and Columbia Counties more choice in financial services and allows us to bring our world

class rates to new communities," said Wauna Federal Credit Union President Dave Baggett.

Wauna Federal has been a community credit union since 1975, and its previous field of membership was limited to parts of Clatsop and Columbia Counties. The \$76 million credit union has 12,000 members and offices in Astoria, Warrenton and Clatskanie.

Regulators have not yet approved a merger between the credit unions, but that is not likely to be a problem if Vernonia Federal Credit Union members vote in favor of the proposal at their annual meeting in May.

Vernonia schools struggle to finish year without more cuts

The Vernonia School District board of directors heard about two areas of concern from district patrons at a well attended meeting in Mist, April 10. Gordon Hieronomous asked the board about a variety of rumors regarding the future of Mist School. Later in the meeting, Richard Forster told the board that he, and other parents, had not received adequate notice of the elimination of bus transportation for spring sports.

Superintendent Mike Funderburg told the audience that, rather than have the administration develop the budget, a team of community members, administrators and board members, know as the budget assistance team (BAT), has been meeting since early March to develop a budget. The district is in the unprecedented position of having to find areas to reduce spending in the current budget and, at the same time, develop a budget for the following year, Funderburg told the

audience.

The state informs school districts of revenue projections for the next fiscal year, however, as is the case in the current fiscal year, the projections may

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This police car brought to you by...?

Advertising on Vernonia Police cars isn't in the City's long range plans, but cars are needed, so the Vernonia City Council instructed Police Chief Mike Cahill and City Administrator Mike Sykes, at their April 7 meeting, to obtain more information from cities that have used advertising to fund vehicles.

The program under consideration operates through a company called Government Acquisitions, Inc., which solicits sponsors to help pay for emergency vehicles, in exchange for advertising on the vehicles. A number of cash-strapped agencies have contracted with the company, including at least two in Oregon.

Technically, there is no po-

tential conflict of interest in the arrangement because the sponsors pay Government Acquisitions, Inc., for advertising. The car is then purchased and "donated" to the city. The city's only expense is \$1.00...but it must give the car back at the end of three years.

There should be more information available at the April 21 council meeting.

The Vernonia Planning commission was brought back to full strength with the appointments of Steven Stanbrough and Carol Sawyer.

Dalene McLeod was reappointed to the city Budget Committee, but there are still vacancies. Anyone interested in serving on this extremely important committee should call City Hall

at 503-429-5291.

Director of Public Works Robyn Bassett told council that a successful grant application will provide \$10,000 to hire young people during the summer. Bassett will be working with Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) members.

City residents can ignore Goal 5 notice

A programming error sent post cards giving notice of a workshop and public hearing regarding proposed amendments to Columbia County's Goal 5 resource protection program were mailed to owners of property within city limits. The proposed amendments would affect only properties outside of incorporated city limits.

Easter Egg Hunt at Hawkins Park

The Easter Bunny will be attending the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt in Hawkins Park on April 19.

Age categories will be 0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-8 years and 9-10 years.

Following the romp through the grass in search of colorful Easter eggs, the Easter Bunny will have treats for the children.

NOTE TO PARENTS:
The event will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. In order for your child to take part, you must arrive on time.

