

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Parks well used during Jamboree



VHS principal enthusiastic about district

Curt Scholl, new principal for Vernonia High School, is excited about coming to Vernonia, a district that he feels has a "fairly progressive" outlook about education. After a one-year stint at St. Helens High as vice-principal and athletic director, and teaching social studies at West Linn High School, Scholl is enthusiastic about coming to a school that is a central part of community life.

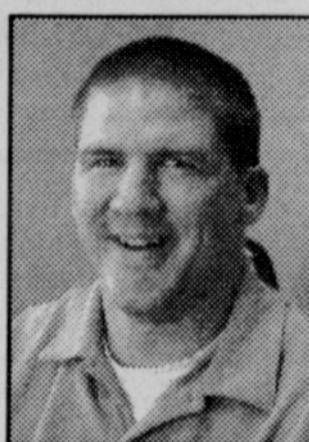
Scholl lives in Warren with his wife, Kelly (a University of Portland volleyball coach), and their two small children. Since they have finished remodeling

their home, Scholl said that they would not be moving to Vernonia, but that he likes the community involvement in school activities. Both smaller and larger schools often do not have nearly as much community spirit, according to Scholl.

Scholl also worked in the Siuslaw/Florence district to set up an alternative school, a collaboration between the district, Adult and Family Services, and the GED program, to provide alternatives for kids who don't succeed in the typical school environment. He said that he was excited about the develop-

ment of an alternative school for the Vernonia area and working in cooperation with the City of Vernonia.

In addition to a new principal and a new athletic director (Tony Pupo), there will be three new teachers greeting students in music, business and science classes.



Curtiss Scholl

Residents say "no more" to police intimidation

After nearly three hours of a council meeting with verbal brickbats directed at Vernonia Police Chief Mike Cahill, two members of the Columbia County Sheriff's Posse and many Oregon State Police troopers, an occasionally noisy, but otherwise polite crowd of citizens was too tired to continue.

Two specific elements triggered the protest: One was the decision by Ray and Rose Foster to close the Cedar Side Inn over Jamboree weekend because they felt the chief was threatening to close their business if there was any violation of OLCC rules, no matter how slight, during Jamboree.

The second was the aggressive and sometimes intimidating behavior of too many police officers, including the chief.

Although several people supported Chief Cahill's decision to bring in the OSP, more faulted his judgement in consulting only with law enforcement officials before deciding how much police presence there should be during Jamboree.

"If I was bringing my family to Vernonia from out of town," said Mike Pihl, "saw the banner that said 'Welcome to the Friendship Jamboree,' and then saw 22 police cars, bikes and more, I'd say 'We're not

staying here!'"

Other speakers addressed the harm to businesses that need the income brought in by Jamboree, with several references to the "facist" behavior of the officers.

Ruth Grimsrud said that several friends who had planned to display their vintage motorcycles on Sunday, were so uncomfortable that they decided to leave. Although she doesn't drink, Grimsrud said, she has often visited with friends in bars here and has never felt threatened. "I would rather people drank in a crowded bar than take a case out on a county road and drink it," she said.

The chief had several supporters, as well, but the speakers who received the most applause were those who emphasized the need for the community to work together toward solutions.

"I don't think a single person is happy about what happened," said Tony Hyde (specifying that he was speaking as a resident, not as a county commissioner). He stressed the need to come together and suggested a town hall meeting on law enforcement expectations.

No decisions were made, but council members indicated that they would support a community meeting.

Revised Code of Conduct for VHS

Vernonia High School students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities next year may be surprised to find out that they will be required to demonstrate characteristics "in keeping with accepted standards of good citizenship" at all times throughout the school year. Superintendent Mike Funderburg and new high school principal Curtiss Scholl will present an expanded and re-

vised Code of Conduct to the Vernonia School Board at their August 14 meeting. The entire "Athletics and Activities Participation Policy - Participant Code of Conduct" is written in the form of a contract that must be signed by the student and a parent prior to participation.

The revised code does not greatly expand the categories of misconduct for which an ath-

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