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The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Progress...



The work is noisy and inconvenient, but steady progress is being made on the Hwy. 47 resurfacing project. A bonus for the area is that many local contractors and their employees are involved in the work.

Road work will cause increased delays

While work on the first four blocks in downtown Vernonia has been relatively smooth, substantial traffic delays are likely during upcoming segments of the Hwy. 47 resurfacing project.

Work on the narrow Rock Creek bridge will require the closure of one lane, with traffic delays in both directions of up to 20 minutes. This starts today and should be done very soon, if no problems develop.

A much bigger segment, construction of the pedestrian/bike path on OA Hill, from the museum to the grade school, will require 24-hour, one-way traffic for a month or more.

Work needed to stabilize the

hill and construct a safe pathway will require a lot of equipment, including a pile driver. Traffic delays of up to 20 minutes may be expected, and a flagger will be on duty 24

Curious bear visits Alder Street

Wildlife sightings are common in this area – deer, elk, coyotes, raccoons, occasionally foxes, cougar, even a bobcat or two. But a bear on the deck of a home within the Vernonia City limits is not common.

Nevertheless, the Scheuerman family watched – from inside their Alder Street home – as a bear investigated the bird feeder on their deck this past Sunday.

hours.

This work will start June 1. Local drivers are urged to use Stoney Point or Pebble Creek Roads whenever possible, to avoid construction delays.

"It was a young bear," Erin Scheuerman said. When she raised an upstairs window to take a picture, the bear bolted and climbed a tree. It later came down and ran off.

"I know what to do with cows, and I know what to do with dogs," said Vernonia Police Chief Matthew Workman. "I don't know what to do with bears." Fortunately, he didn't have to find out...yet.

County voters say YES to 9-1-1 levy

What many thought was another wind storm, was actually a county-wide sigh of relief when the word went out election night at 10:55 p.m. that voters had approved the 9-1-1 levy renewal.

Just under 53 percent of the registered voters in Columbia County cast ballots in the May 18 primary election, meeting the 50 percent turnout requirement that had defeated previous attempts to renew the levy. Final unofficial returns showed that more than 70 percent of the ballots cast supported the levy renewal.

Washington County Library levy fails

Washington County voters narrowly approved a levy for Washington County libraries, but with only 40.15 percent of registered voters returning ballots, failure to meet the 50 percent turnout invalidated the effort.

Results for Columbia County Commission

Incumbent Joe Corsiglia defeated Gary Heide for Columbia County Commissioner Position 1, with 52.5 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary.

Colleen DeShazer edged past Glenn Dorschler, 49.9 percent to 47.67 percent, in the Republican primary for Columbia County Commissioner Position 1.

Position 3 incumbent Tony Hyde was unopposed in the Republican primary.

Rosemary Lohrke won easily in a three-way Democratic primary for Position 3. Lohrke received 51.7 percent of the vote to 29.6 for Steve Sickles

and 16.7 percent for William Daemke.

State Representative District 31 and 32

District 31 Democratic incumbent Betsy Johnson had no challengers in the primary election, and no Republicans filed for the position. Unless an independent candidate qualifies later, Johnson will be unopposed in the November General Election.

The District 32 incumbent, Elaine Hopson, is not running for re-election, making this the only contested legislative race for this area.

Deborah Boone, who won the Democratic nomination decisively (66.46 percent to 33.54 percent) over Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, will face Republican Douglas Olson. Olson also won handily, 59.5 percent to 40.5 percent, over Adam Schwend on the Republican ticket.

Assorted results

In other contested races, Columbia County voters were in agreement with state-wide results, favoring presidential candidate John Kerry on the Democratic ticket, and Republican Goli Ameri to challenge the Democrat pick, incumbent David Wu, for U.S. Congress in District 1.

Republicans nominated Betsy Close to face the Democrat choice for Secretary of State, incumbent Bill Bradbury.

In nonpartisan races, incumbent state Supreme Court Justices Rives Kistler and William Riggs were both local and state choices, as was incumbent Appeals Court Judge Robert Wollheim.