

47J panel to review transportation needs

Early this year, while reviewing staff contracts, Vernonia school district formed a committee to review the transportation contract. While making clear that they were more than satisfied with the services provided by Curl Transportation, the board felt that a review was in order because the contract was originally signed in 1984, and has since been amended to the point that it is a confusing conglomeration of documents. Last year the board chose not to renew the rolling five-year contract, leaving four years remaining (through the 2007-2008 school year).

Board members Randy Hansen and Cari Levenseller, and Superintendent Mike Funderburg have been working on a revision since January. Following review by all members of the board in February, a contract was mailed to Curl Transportation in March as a starting point for formal negotiation. The committee has met with Joe Curl at least four times. No agreement has been reached on a contract revision; the current contract will be in effect for the next four school years.

However, the board reached a consensus that the committee could act to enforce the ex-

isting contract without further action by the board. For instance, the contract requires Curl Transportation to have five buses available for regular, daily school transportation that are less than 15 years old. This provision will require one bus to be replaced at the end of this year and another at the end of next year. Curl Transportation is not required to purchase new buses.

According to Superintendent Mike Funderburg, the district will open the transportation contract for proposals when the current contract is due to expire.

Manning teen drowns

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ing to witnesses, but finally had to give up. The other friend went for help. It was not known what caused the drowning.

The pond is about 12 feet deep and has poor underwater visibility. The boy's body was recovered by the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Dive team.

Members of the Banks Fire Department, the Forest Grove Fire Department, and Metro West Ambulance also responded.

Joseph was the son of John and Ramona Rigert, and the brother of Jared and Becca Rigert, all of Manning.

Vernonia woman dies

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was taken by Life Flight to Legacy Emanuel Hospital; which reported his condition as "good" on Wednesday afternoon.

Ashley Forster, 17, who was a passenger in the Honda, is in critical condition at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Heather Forster is in good condition.

Another passenger, Jalina Haworth, 18, was taken with the Forster sisters to Legacy Emanuel Hospital by ambulance. Her condition is unknown.

Highway 47 was shut down for several hours. The investigation is continuing.

Community Calendar

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31											

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous Mondays 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
 Alcoholics Anonymous Saturdays 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
 American Legion Post #119 2nd Thursday 627 Adams Ave./ 503-429-4000
 Arts & Crafts Society 2nd Thursday 2:00 p.m., City Library
 Boosters 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., VHS Library
 Boy Scout Troop 201 Tuesdays 7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
 Boy Scout Troop 860 Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., LDS Church
 Cemetery Beautification Comm. 2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
 Chamber of Commerce 2nd Wednesday Noon, Lew's Place
 Cub Scout Pack 201 Scout Cabin For Info Call 503-429-0188
 Doll Club 4th Tuesday 1:00 p.m., Senior Center
 Friends of the Library 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
 Hands On Art Committee 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
 Home Extension Club 3rd Thursday 10:30 a.m., Christian Church
 Izaak Walton League 3rd Thursday For location call 503-429-7193
 Lions Club 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
 Nehalem Valley Car Club For Info Call 503-429-4074
 Pioneer Museum For Info Call 503-429-8134
 Preschool Story Hour Mondays 10:30 a.m., City Library
 Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C. 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., City Hall
 Vernonia Airport Committee 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., City Library
 Vernonia Cares Directors For Info call 503-429-1414
 Vernonia City Council 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 p.m., City Hall
 Vernonia Community PTA 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m., WGS Library
 Vernonia Grange 4th Saturday 10:30 a.m., Grange Hall
 Vernonia Health Center 2nd Monday 6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
 Vernonia Planning Comm. 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m., City Hall
 Vernonia Pride For Info Call, 503-429-5201
 Vernonia Ridge Riders Last Thursday 7:00 p.m., Senior Center
 Vernonia RFPD Board 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Fire Station
 Vernonia School Board 2nd Thursday 6:00 p.m., District Office
 Vernonia Sr. Center Board 3rd Friday 1:00 p.m., Senior Center
 Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc. 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m., Fire Station
 Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m., Fire Station
 WOEC Directors 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg. 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 M-BRFPD Board Workshop 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 M-B Ambulance Drill 1st & 2nd Thursdays 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 M-B Fire Drill 1st & 2nd Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 M-B Helping Circle 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 M-B SAR Drill 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 M-B Volunteer Assoc. 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 Natal Grange 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
 T.O.P.S. Mondays 6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
 Upr Nehalem Watershed Council For date call 429-2401 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous Fridays 8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
 Banks City Council 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m., City Hall
 Banks Fire District #13 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Station 13
 Banks Planning Commission Last Tuesday 7:00 p.m., City Hall
 Banks School Board 2nd Monday 7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
 Banks Youth Group Sundays, Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
 Chamber of Commerce 1st Thursday 12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
 CPO 14 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m., City Library
 Friends of the Library 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., City Library
 Lions Club 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 p.m., Schlegel Hall
 Sunset Park Assoc. 3rd Wednesday 8:00 p.m., Gun Club
 T.O.P.S. Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
 Women's Aglow 2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m., City Library

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners Wednesdays 10 a.m., Courthouse
 Citizens for Senior Justice 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
 Columbia Soil & Water District 3rd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
 County Fair Board 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
 County Parks Commission 3rd Monday 6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
 Mental Health Advisory Comm. 3rd Tuesday 10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
 Comm. on Children & Families 3rd Thursday 5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
 Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm. 2nd Tuesday 3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.

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