

State employees seeking a better contract

Employees of state agencies in Columbia County will join others across the state on Monday, December 6 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., in front of the state office complex in

St. Helens (500 N. Hwy 30), to draw attention to their struggle to maintain family wage jobs. December 6 is also the first day of labor negotiations for thousands of state workers.

"After enduring a pay freeze these last two years and seeing my medical co-pays double, my pay check has to stretch farther every month," said Sharon McGaugh, a Department Human Services worker. "What I think people don't realize is that many of my co-workers qualify for food stamps.

"If our state won't provide liv-

ing wage jobs," she asked, "what kind of standard does that set in our communities?"

State workers who are part of SEIU Local 503, OPEU have led the fight for one of the highest minimum wages in the nation, benefiting working people and their families. Union members have also been instrumental in pushing for bulk prescription drug buying for the state, a cost-saving measure that will expand health care access for more Oregonians, and have made it a priority to seek affordable health care for all families.

Class to be held for Food Handlers

A Food Handler's class will be held Tuesday, December 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Buckhorn Restaurant, 934 Bridge St., Vernonia.

The test is based on information contained in the Food Handler's booklet, which is available at the Vernonia Public Health at 2370 Gable Rd., St. Helens. The test is based on information in the booklet. Cost of the test is \$10.00. Participants need to bring a pen or pencil.

Pre-registration for the test is not required. For more information, call Mark Edington at 503-366-3828.



Johnson will seek senate position

Representative Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) announced that she will seek the appointment to fulfill the term of Senator Joan Dukes (D-Svenson), who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, subject to Senate confirmation in early January.

Johnson was first elected to represent District 31 in the Oregon House in November 2000 and was re-elected this fall. During the 2003 Legislative Session, she served on the House Ways and Means Committee, the General Government Ways and Means Sub-

committee, and the Natural Resources Ways and Means Subcommittee.

Dems from five counties eligible to replace Dukes

With five counties involved in the process to appoint a replacement for Senator Joan Dukes, it appears that the county with the most Democrat representation in the senate district (Columbia) will organize a convention to select nominees.

Candidates for the appointment must submit their names to the Democratic Party organization. Precinct committee persons within the district will vote on the nominees, selecting from 3 to 5 names.

County Commissioners will vote on the final winner. If the counties fail to make an appointment within 30 days of the vacancy, the governor will choose the replacement.

← **A Monday fire in the shop at Buckner Land Salvage damaged part of the building, as well as a new shop truck that was parked inside. No one was in the shop when the fire started and the cause had not yet been determined, Ed Buckner told The Independent.**

Community Calendar

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4				1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
28	29	30											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 Avenue
- Arts & Crafts Society 2nd Thursday 2:00 p.m., City Library
- Booster Club 2nd Wednesday 7:00 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, Buckhorn Restaurant
- Community Coalition 2nd Monday 12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
- 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., Buckhorn Restaurant
- Nehalem Valley Car Club 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
- Pioneer Museum For Info Call 503-429-4074
- 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 Hall
- Vernonia Cares Directors For Info call 503-429-1414
- Vernonia City Council 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Vernonia Community PTA 3rd Thursday 6:30 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 & 3rd Thursdays 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.