

Business Notes

Wyden: Local employer wants less than minimum wage to hire teens

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minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour) and other restrictions. Oregon law states that 14 and 15 year olds can work only 3 hours per day (8 hours on non-school days), 18 hours per week maximum and only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with no work allowed during school hours. Smith suggested being allowed to pay teens \$1 or \$2 under minimum wage for 1-1/2 to 2 years and then paying them \$.50 over minimum wage. Wyden's aide took names of students 14 to 17 years old who would be

interested in discussing a possible pilot project.

After the Town Hall, Wyden made a brief stop at the Vernonia Senior Center before continuing on to a Town Hall meeting in Seaside.

Topics at the senior center centered primarily on Social Security and the cost of health care. In response to a question about illegal aliens receiving Social Security, Wyden explained that illegal workers generally pay into Social Security, but don't get it back because their illegal status prevents them from filing for it.

Council approves police policies and "pocket park" project

Vernonia City Council, at their regular April 4 meeting, approved new Police Department policies prepared by Chief Matthew Workman on topics including the use of force, abandoned babies, juveniles in custody, and the use of the department's canine officer.

Officer Mike Kay brought in K-9 Officer Krueger to display the newly-arrived bullet proof vest. Krueger will wear the vest at all times when he is on duty.

The Alley Park Project Plan for a 'pocket park' in the alleyway beside Black Bear Coffee Company was approved. It will include moveable furniture, brick or other pavers, plus planters to create 'rooms.'

Representing the Vernonia Lions, George Tice told council that the Lions have purchased a 30' X 45' tent and will rent it out to clubs or individuals for weddings and other community events. Its first use will be at River Fest on April 23.

Mayor Sally Harrison approved the appointment to the new Airport Committee of Mel Nice, Kieth Crimin, Matthew Giles, Mike Seager and Don Stevens. Councilor Randy Parrow will also serve.

A public hearing is scheduled for May 2 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on a new Contracting Ordinance.

The next council meeting will be April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Free class will help employers avoid some snags

"Legal Traps Employers Should Avoid" is the title of a free presentation to be held April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the Vernonia Public Library.

Presenting the program will be Chet Nakada, a program coordinator with the Bureau of La-

bor and Industries Technical Assistance for Employers Unit.

Topics covered will include requesting and providing employment references, privacy issues, final paycheck deadlines, and more. Coffee, juice and pastries will be provided.

The program is sponsored

by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce and has been made possible by a grant from the St. Helen's office of the Oregon Employment Department.

Call 503-429-6081 or email <info@vernoniachamber.org> if you plan to attend.



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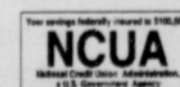
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