

Council adopts contracting ordinance

The May 2 meeting of the Vernonia City Council started with Mayor Sally Harrison proclaiming the week of May 15-21 as Medical Services Week then was recessed for a Public Hearing on the Public Contracting Ordinance.

City Attorney Julie Steffen explained that the ordinance required a change due to changes in Oregon law, to allow more flexibility and to simplify. County Commissioner Tony Hyde spoke in favor of the change saying it will allow Vernonia to expedite specialized and/or small job contracts. He went on to say that "Due diligence is in here, but this makes sense and is already used in all the large cities." There were no comments in opposition or neutral. The hearing was then closed and the council meeting reconvened.

After approving the consent agenda, the council heard a request from Janet Wright, of Co-

lumbia County Transit Commission, to include \$3,500-\$5,000 in the city's 2005-06 budget for transportation, to maintain the services that Metro West offers with rides inside and outside Vernonia.

The council approved the new Public Contract ordinance and an amendment to the Property Code Maintenance Ordinance that sets timelines for corrective action on violations. A resolution was also passed that set fines and fees for the maintenance ordinance.

A letter from Vernonia Senior Center President Bill James was reviewed, indicating that there is still some question as to where the new Senior Center will be located, with sites on Rose Ave. and by Vernonia Lake both still possibilities. The Senior Center has agreed to hold off a final decision for six months to allow the City to work on finding money for the Rose Avenue site.

City Administrator Robyn Bassett reported that the Learning Center contract is expected to go out for bid sometime in the latter part of May.

The next City Council meeting will be a workshop on the Parks Master Plan, to be held Monday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Test of vote counting equipment scheduled

The public certification test of Columbia County's vote counting equipment for the May 17 election, will be May 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Elections Department at the courthouse.

Ballot drop sites for voters who do not mail their ballots will be as follows:

- Vernonia Library during regular hours, plus noon to 8:00 p.m. on May 17.
- Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Dist. Main Station during regular office hours. Hours for May 17 will be noon to 8:00 p.m.

Basic forestry, resource class

Ever wonder what kind of trees you have on your property? Or if they're worth anything? Or how to re-establish a forest? Or how to enhance the wilderness experience in your backyard? Are there enough of you out there with questions to get classes taught right here in Vernonia?

The Oregon State University Extension Service has developed a curriculum to help property owners with these questions. The classes in Basic Forestry and Resource Management Planning (RMP), are designed to give property owners the tools and resources to survey, inventory, and evaluate their property, so they can set goals and plan for the future.

Think that your little piece of heaven isn't big enough to bother with? In a recently completed RMP class, participants did a field study on two parcels of land, each between two-and-a-half and three acres, compar-

ing the survival of cedar protected from browse by either an 8' fence or tubes. The property owner expects a profitable cedar harvest from both plots. If you have, or want, significant tree cover, you have the opportunity to take advantage of these classes.

Chal Landgren, Forestry Extension Agent, told The Independent that both courses could be offered in Vernonia if there were enough interested people. The course would be taught during the fall and spring, with mostly evening classes, over a ten to eleven week period. There would probably be a couple of Saturday field days. The format has not been set because the classes have been taught as a series of day-long workshops, most recently in St. Helens. Landgren is very interested in seeing what response there is to the idea of evening classes,

Please see page 12

Community Calendar

MAY 2005							JUNE 2005							JULY 2005						
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	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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	For Info Call 503-429-6081
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	1st & 3rd Thursdays	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		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Venturing Crew 201	1st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
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	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
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
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
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.