

# Gifts to City: Paid intern and Cycle Oregon earnings

City administrator Robyn Bassett introduced Ben Shumaker to the Vernonia City Council at the start of the October 17 council meeting. Shumaker, an intern financed by a grant from Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) will work with the city for eleven months. His primary responsibilities will be work on planning and other projects.

"I like the way the community looks and I am proud to be a part of it," Shumaker told the council.

The council recessed for a workshop on fireworks displays at Vernonia Lake. The impact of fireworks on wildlife, the economy/tourism, fire safety, quality of life/events, domestic animals and the environment were identified by those present. Council identified additional information they would like to have before completing the workshop process.

After reconvening the regu-

lar meeting, Bassett reported that, beginning in July 2006, the city will assume the building permit duties that the county has been handling for Vernonia. By that time, the city must have inspectors and building code information available to the public. Bassett said she expects this to be a positive change for Vernonia residents, eliminating the need for them to go to St. Helens for information and inspections.

Council set November 7 as the date for a public hearing on the needed upgrade of the city's wastewater facility. Bassett told council that, in 2001, the estimate for the upgrade was \$6.4 million; that figure is now \$12.4 million due to increased material costs. The city is looking for grant alternatives, but may have to put a bond measure on next spring's ballot.

Mayor Sally Harrison proclaimed the month of October as Vernonia Give Our Troops a



**Burt Tschache presented a \$500 check from Cycle Oregon to Mayor Sally Harrison for the Vernonia Learning Center.**

Hug month. Vernonia resident Catherine Ross has placed drop boxes for cards and letters to troops at US Bank, City Hall, Vernonia Auto Parts (NAPA) and in the U.S. Post Office.

Heather Giles and Randy Parrow were appointed to the Airport Committee.

Bassett told council that the city has received a \$25,000

SCA grant to be used in 2006 to resurface East Avenue.

The next meeting of the Vernonia City Council will be at 7:00 p.m. on November 7 at city hall.



# FSA farm loans now available

Loans are available from the Washington/Columbia County Farm Service Agency (FSA) for qualified women and minorities to buy and operate family-sized farms. FSA reserves a portion of its loan guarantee funds to assist socially disadvantaged applicants.

Socially disadvantaged groups are those whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to individual qualities. For purposes of FSA's loan programs, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

These funds are available to individuals and entities that are primarily and directly engaged

Please see page 5

## Community Calendar

OCTOBER 2005							NOVEMBER 2005							DECEMBER 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
23	24	25	26	27	28	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 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
- CERT 4th Wednesday For Info Call 503-429-6033
- 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 503-429-8133
- 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.
- 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., Brown Derby
- 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.