

# Wastewater improvements will require increased sewer rates

A public hearing on Wastewater Rehabilitation preceded the Vernonia City Council meeting on November 7. Information presented by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants showed that, in order to meet the limits set by DEQ and other standards, upgrades and new facilities are needed to add enough storage capacity to avoid dis-

charging partially treated water into the Nehalem River between May 1 and October 31.

New pumps will be needed at the main pump station, plus a better metering system and flood proofing. Pump station 2 on Mist Dr. needs air vacuum release valves, a flowmeter and a bypass. A new pump station needs to be added near the

treatment plant with a pig launch (pig launch is the term used for the site where a pipe cleaning instrument is loaded into the system).

The treatment facility needs a new screen to pick up 'rags' (the term used for paper in the sewer system) and compact them, so they can go into a dumpster for pick up and removal. The lagoons need to be enlarged and have propellers added to decrease oxygen demand and help them work quicker. Some work is needed in lining lagoons; a new chlorine chamber and membranes need to be installed to remove waste particles, algae and turbidity. Additional land is needed for an infiltration cell and irrigation field. Other uses for the cleaned water (not drinkable) also need to be found.

The cost for the wastewater upgrade is estimated at \$9.5 million plus ongoing additional expenses of up to \$400,000 per

year in operating costs. Funding will derive from a combination of grants, increased sewer fees, and increased property taxes. Users may see sewer fees go up from \$37.00 per month to \$74.00 per month or more.

During the council meeting after the public hearing, Vernonia resident Pat Sipes told council she had slipped and fallen on the bridge at Anderson Park and the city's insurer told her that Oregon law (ORS 105.676 and 105.682) gives recreational immunity to the city against liability for injuries that occur on recreational land. Sipes said she would like to see the bridge maintained to reduce the likelihood of injuries and/or a sign warning people that the bridge is slippery.

Mayor Sally Harrison appointed Robyn Bassett, Jeff Burch, Paul Epler, Mathew Workman, Glenda DeLemos, John Lewis, and Dan Brown to

a Hazard Mitigation Committee. City Administrator Robyn Bassett explained that Columbia County has done most of the work on a Hazard Mitigation Plan but that it needs to be tailored for Vernonia.

In unanimous votes, council directed staff to determine available opportunities for development of city properties for purposes of economic development and to ensure that the Joy Theater is identified as a potential public facility and to begin to evaluate the feasibility of development.

In other business, council:

- Set a workshop on the Parking Plan for November 21 at 7:00 p.m.

- Granted a variance to John Fry to live in a trailer parked on private property on Adams Ave. He will need to reapply for the variance within the time frame specified in the city ordinance.

- Agreed to ban remote con-

**Please see page 5**

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## Community Calendar

| NOVEMBER 2005 |    |    |    |    |    |    | DECEMBER 2005 |    |    |    |    |    |    | JANUARY 2006 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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  | 4             | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 1            | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 11            | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 8            | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 18            | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 15           | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 20            | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 25            | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 22           | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    | 29           | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| VERNONIA                         |                     |                                 | MIST-BIRKENFELD                |                        |                              | BANKS                     |                     |                                  | COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.) |               |                                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous             | Mondays             | 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.     | M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.    | 2nd Tuesday            | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Alcoholics Anonymous      | Fridays             | 8:00 p.m., Methodist Church      | Board of Commissioners   | Wednesdays    | 10 a.m., Courthouse                |
| Alcoholics Anonymous             | Saturdays           | 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.     | M-BRFPD Board Workshop         | 4th Tuesday            | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | American Legion Post #90  | 2nd Tuesdays        | 7:30 p.m., Main Street Post      | Citizens for Senior Justice                                      | 2nd Tuesday   | 7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church      |
| American Legion Post #119        | 2nd Thursday        | 627 Adams Avenue                | M-B Ambulance Drill            | 1st & 2nd Thursdays    | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks City Council        | 2nd Tuesday         | 7:30 p.m., City Hall             | Columbia Soil & Water District                                   | 3rd Wednesday | 7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes        |
| Arts & Crafts Society            | 2nd Thursday        | 2:00 p.m., City Library         | M-B Fire Drill                 | 1st & 2nd Wednesdays   | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks Fire District #13   | 2nd Wednesday       | 7:00 p.m., Station 13            | County Fair Board  | 2nd Monday    | 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.   |
| Booster Club                     | 2nd Wednesday       | 7:00 p.m., VHS Library          | M-B Helping Circle             | 2nd Monday             | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks Planning Commission | Last Tuesday        | 7:00 p.m., City Hall             | County Parks Commission  | 3rd Monday    | 6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.         |
| Boy Scout Troop 201              | Tuesdays            | 7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin          | M-B SAR Drill                  | 3rd Wednesday          | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks School Board        | 2nd Monday          | 7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library      | Mental Health Advisory Comm.                                     | 3rd Tuesday   | 10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse     |
| Boy Scout Troop 860              | Wednesdays          | 7:00 p.m., LDS Church           | M-B Volunteer Assoc.           | 1st Tuesday            | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Banks Youth Group         | Sundays, Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.       | Comm. on Children & Families                                     | 3rd Thursday  | 5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30 |
| Cemetery Beautification Comm.    | 2nd Thursday        | 7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill     | Natal Grange                   | 2nd Wednesday          | 7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall | Chamber of Commerce       | 1st Thursday        | 12:30 p.m., Fire District Office | Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.                                | 2nd Tuesday   | 3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse   |
| CERT                             | 4th Wednesday       | For Info Call 503-429-6033      | T.O.P.S.                       | Mondays                | 6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | CPO 14                    | 3rd Monday          | 7:00 p.m., City Library          |  |               |                                    |
| Chamber of Commerce              | 2nd Wednesday       | For Info Call 503-429-6081      | Up'r Nehalem Watershed Council | For date call 429-2401 | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station | Friends of the Library    | 2nd Tuesday         | 7:00 p.m., City Library          |  |               |                                    |
| Community Coalition              | 2nd Monday          | 12:30 p.m. School District Ofc. |                                |                        |                              | Lions Club                | 1st & 3rd Mondays   | 7:00 p.m., Brown Derby           |  |               |                                    |
| Cub Scout Pack 201               | Scout Cabin         | For Info Call 503-429-8133      |                                |                        |                              | Sunset Park Assoc.        | 3rd Wednesday       | 8:00 p.m., Gun Club              |  |               |                                    |
| Doll Club                        | 4th Tuesday         | 1:00 p.m., Senior Center        |                                |                        |                              | T.O.P.S.                  | Wednesdays          | 7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.  |  |               |                                    |
| Friends of the Library           | 1st Tuesday         | 7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library     |                                |                        |                              | Women's Aglow             | 2nd Thursday        | 7:00 p.m., City Library          |  |               |                                    |
| Hands On Art Committee           | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 4:00 p.m., City Hall            |                                |                        |                              |                           |                     |                                  |  |               |                                    |
| 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                 |                                |                        |                              |                           |                     |                                  |  |               |                                    |

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.