

Successful Middle School open house

Acting Vernonia School District Superintendent Anne Kingsley opened the December 8 school board meeting by telling the board that around 50 people attended the Middle School Open House on November 30. Kingsley then reported on a reading improvement project at the grade school using a tech-

nique called "flooding" where the staff and assistants zero in on one grade at a time and provide enough staff so each 4-5 kids have one adult to help them concentrate on reading. An update on the building project reported that only a few items in the kitchen still needed attention at the Middle School.

Board member Tim Titus asked about the trees in front of the Middle School and was told by Board President Randy Hansen that neighbors across from the school have indicated concern about the potential of the trees coming down in a wind. Hansen said he would talk to City Hall about landscaping in the conditional use permit and research the cost of having the trees professionally removed. The other two board members present, Dick Brunsmann and Debbie Brown, along with Hansen and Titus, agreed they would like to see the trees replaced by some other trees if they need to be removed. Three board members - Cari Levenseller, Angie Taylor and Kim Wallace - did not attend the meeting.

Aaron Miller, grade school principal, reported on an Intel Volunteer Program that allows parents to spend time at

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Planning underway for 47J future

By Schann Nelson

Citizens of Vernonia have had the privilege of coming together to plan for growth. A strategic plan completed just prior to the flood of 1996 deserves much of the credit for organized improvements in infrastructure (streets, roads, sewer and water) and facilities (city hall and library). The bonds formed between community members as part of the planning process served the community well when faced with the overwhelming task of recovering from a disaster. The school district is poised to involve the community in a similar process to develop a comprehensive plan for district property that forms the focus of the center of town.

Long-range planning does not happen in a vacuum. The committee that completed the 1996 plan met every two weeks for about three months, and had several subcommittees

meeting intermittently to study aspects of the plan in depth. In order to be effective, such a committee needs a wide range of community members who are willing to dedicate the necessary time and to support the committee's conclusions.

The school district is well on the way to developing a plan to guide future development. Though out of the public eye, the work of Dull Olson Weeks Architects (DOWA) did not completely end with the completion of the middle school. Board members Debbie Brown and Kim Wallace have met twice with DOWA and others who have stepped up to begin the preliminary work. The board has authorized a committee to solicit proposals from firms, including DOWA, to complete the process. The board also decided to form a long range planning committee (LRPC) and solicit proposals

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Thanks to the Community and Businesses for their support this past year. With that support the Chamber was able to Coordinate these programs;

Easter Egg Hunt, Linear Trail Cleanup, Cycle Oregon's visit, Salmon Festival Scarecrow contest, Customer Service Training and Holiday Bucks



Vernonia Chamber of Commerce

Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2005							JANUARY 2006							FEBRUARY 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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	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	7:00 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	Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	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	American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post	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 City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall	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 Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13	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 Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	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 School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library	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	Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.	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	Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office			
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library			
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.				Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library			
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133				Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby			
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center				Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club			
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library				T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.			
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.