

Construction gets underway on long awaited Learning Center

Construction began last week on the Vernonia Community Learning Center, a project that has been a dream for several years. The Learning Center, on Bridge Street between Vernonia Realty and the old City Hall (now occupied by retail businesses), will create a new opportunity for the citizens of Vernonia.

The Learning Center will have two classrooms, one of which will be equipped with 22 computers on tiered platforms

Upon completion, these classrooms will be available for use by the citizens of Vernonia for computer lab hours, computer literacy courses, and any other imaginable course that an instructor would like to teach.

City staff is also negotiating with the Vernonia School District, Portland Community College, and Columbia County agencies to bring educational opportunities into Vernonia that do not currently exist. In addition to adding a new building to

downtown Vernonia, the Learning Center will be an active element in community life, a place where citizens come, both to share their knowledge and to learn from others.

City Administrator Robyn Bassett is excited by the prospect of adding this "million dollar facility" to the list of the community's assets. "We hope that this center will be used to supplement the education of

our citizens, young and old."

The building, designed by architects at Crow/Clay & Associates Inc., went to bid in December and, on January 17, the Vernonia City Council awarded the contract to JH Kelly LLC. Since JH Kelly is a large company which does not need to subcontract many of the construction tasks, their bid was significantly lower than the bids of other contractors. The build-

ing is scheduled for completion in June.

Funding for the construction is from a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant administered through the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, and \$150,000 from the Community Incentive Fund from Oregon Housing and Community Services. Local property taxes will not be used for construction.

Inform your insurance agent of classification change

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the cost of improvements will repay area residents through lower fire insurance premiums. This reduced insurance cost is for commercial, and residential, with the largest reduction to the school district. Previous classification within the city was a five, with 8-10 in rural areas, and 10 for the School District.

In a letter to the city and fire

district, ISO said "We wish to thank you and the other community officials for your cooperation during our recent Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey. ISO is the leading supplier of statistical, underwriting, and actuarial information for the property/casualty insurance industry. Most insurers use the PPC classifications for underwriting and calculating premi-

ums for residential, commercial and industrial properties. ISO has completed its analysis of the structure fire suppression delivery system provided in your community. We would like to report that the resulting classification is a Class 4/8B. Congratulations on your commitment to serve the needs of your community's property owners and residents."

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY 2006							MARCH 2006							APRIL 2006							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28						26	27	28	29	30	31		23	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
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	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	7:00 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
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays	8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Behind VHS
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

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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
Unr. Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 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.

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.