

Close of filing near for May 16 primary election

Candidates have only a few days, until March 7, to file nomination papers for the May 16 Primary Election.

In Columbia County, as of noon on March 1, Commissioner Rita Bernhard was unopposed for reelection to Position 2. Also unopposed at that time were County Clerk Elizabeth Huser and Assessor Sue Poling.

No candidates had yet filed for either District Attorney or Surveyor in Columbia County.

Washington County Commissioner Andy Duyck will face challenger Susan McLain in District 4.

In the At-Large position, County Chair Tom Brian is being challenged by Robert D. Vanderzanden and Samuel McCone.

Incumbent state Senator Elizabeth (Betsy) Johnson, a Democrat, is unopposed, thus

far, for District 16. No opponents had yet filed against incumbent Democratic state Representative Brad Witt and Deborah Boone, in Districts 31 and 32, respectively.

John R. Benson was the sole candidate for Clatsop County Commissioner in District 5. District Attorney Joshua Marquis was also unopposed. Both positions are nonpartisan.

Statewide positions include challengers for most positions, especially Governor.

Republicans David W. Beem, William E. Spidal, Kevin Mannix, Jason A. Atkinson, W.C. Ames and Gordon Leitch will crowd the ballot for the top spot, while Governor Ted Kulongoski faces Pete Sorenson and Jim Hill.

Incumbent Susan Castillo is being challenged by Deborah

L. Andrews for the nonpartisan position of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Although incumbent U.S. Representative David Wu hadn't yet filed for reelection, he has drawn at least three challengers on the Democratic ballot — Pavel Goberman, Alexa J. Lewis and Shantu Shah.

Derrick Kitts has filed for the first Congressional District seat on the Republican ballot.

There will be several judicial positions on the ballot, as well, including the state Supreme Court and Circuit Courts.

Free local recycling three days weekly

Free commingle recycling is available at a dumpster located at Dad's Recycling, behind the transfer station in Vernonia.

Dad's is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Council looks at funds needed for wastewater facility upgrades

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the May ballot for \$4 per \$1,000 of assessed property value; raising sewer rates from the current \$37 per month to \$99 per month; or a combination of both bonds and sewer rate increases. An increase from \$37 to \$47 is expected to be needed to pay for maintenance and operation of the new system. Additionally, the city will need to find the equivalent of 46 acres to irrigate with reclaimed water the treatment plant will generate.

After the work session, the council voted to approve the DEQ loan for interim financing of the wastewater facility upgrade project.

- In other actions, council:
- approved liquor license renewal for Marlea Foods (Sentry Market),
 - approved \$100 donation to

the VHS 2006 drug and alcohol free graduation party,

- appointed Tim Jennings to the Learning Center Committee,
- accepted the resignation of Heather Giles from the Airport Committee,
- appointed Robyn Bassett Budget Officer for the city.

New county Transfer Station open 7 days

The new Columbia County Transfer Station opened on February 20 at 1601 Railroad Avenue in St. Helens. The facility is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Household hazardous waste intake is expected to start in April or May, on one Saturday a month.

Community Calendar															
MARCH 2006								APRIL 2006							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	4							1	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
MAY 2006															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	6								
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31					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	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

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	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.