

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

April 6, 2006

Paradin' the Green...



There was no doubt about support for St. Patrick's Day in Vernonia, as plentiful displays of Kelly green filled the street for the annual parade.

Council told levy includes resident deputy

Columbia County Sheriff Phil Derby and County Commissioner Tony Hyde made a presentation to the Vernonia City Council, at their April 3 meeting, about the law enforcement levy that will be on the ballot for the May 16 Primary Election. One of the important items mentioned was the cost, which will be \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This is nearly 50 percent less than previous levy attempts.

Included in the presentation was news that the county will be divided into three zones for law enforcement, and that a Resident Deputy Sheriff will be assigned to the Nehalem Valley if the levy passes. Both Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire District and the City of Vernonia have agreed to provide office space for the use of deputies. After reviewing several elements of the proposal, the council consensus was to support the levy. No formal action was taken because it

was not on the agenda.

Hyde also reported that a county-wide Emergency Management Commission is being developed. Membership will be composed primarily of emergency responders such as police, fire, medical and utility professionals. A planning meeting is scheduled for April 6 to develop the process.

Two citizens spoke during topics from the floor:

- Fred Oviatt, a resident on

E. Bridge Street, expressed great concern about the bike path plan for the street. According to Oviatt, a ban on parking on the bike path would prevent garbage pickup and vehicle delivery by UPS or FedEx. He also objected to the planned "cluster" mail boxes and elimination of door-to-door delivery, saying it would create difficulties for people with impaired mobility.

Please see page 20

April proclaimed as "Make Vernonia Shine Month"

April was proclaimed as Make Vernonia Shine Month by Mayor Sally Harrison at the April 3 City Council meeting. Make Vernonia Shine Month is in conjunction with Make Vernonia Shine Day on April 22.

"We want to encourage citizens to prepare for April 22 now," said Mayor Harrison. "Citizens can begin by cleaning their yards this month and then

on April 22, they can join the fun with the entire city and the party afterward."

"This is also a great kick off for the City's efforts to enforce the nuisance ordinances," said City Recorder Kate Conley. Citizens may receive letters noting areas that need attention. Issues citizens need to be aware of include household garbage that is not in trash con-

Governor appoints Peyton to OYCC Advisory Committee

Maggie Peyton, Coordinator for the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, with responsibilities in Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and Washington Counties, has been appointed to the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) Advisory Committee. The appointment, for a three-year term effective immediately, was announced by Governor Ted Kulongoski on February 15.

"We are very pleased that Maggie has agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee," said Ron Adams, OYCC Director. "Maggie's experience in the natural resource arena, in delivering watershed education, in working with local youth implementing salmon restoration

and other projects, her deep roots in Columbia County and ongoing interest in youth will enable her to bring great insight and stability to OYCC's Advisory Committee," said Adams.

"The Conservation Corps' primary mission is to serve disadvantaged and at-risk youth," Adams added, "and bringing work skills, education and an appreciation of the environment to those youth. Maggie's background and interests are ideal in helping OYCC set policy and visualize the needs and opportunities for the youth we serve. She is accustomed to dealing with diverse interest and reaching consensus on complex conservation matters. Traits you can't teach," he concluded.

The Oregon Youth Conservation Corps was created by the Legislature in Oregon in 1987 to emulate the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and 40s. OYCC now has at least one crew in every Oregon county during the summer, and partners with 22 alternative schools through its Community Stewardship Corps program during the school year. Almost one thousand youth are served each year between the two programs. State funding is through the Oregon Lottery.

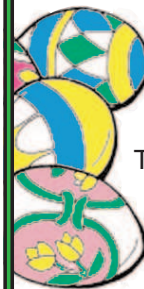
Worthwhile education/conservation/stewardship projects and the crew concept are the

Please see page 4

Vernonia

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Vernonia Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 15, at 10:00 a.m. sharp, at Hawkins Park. This event for children age 10 and under is sponsored by the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce.



Reward Offered

Vernonia Pride is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for running a dead duck up the memorial flag pole at Shay Park last week.