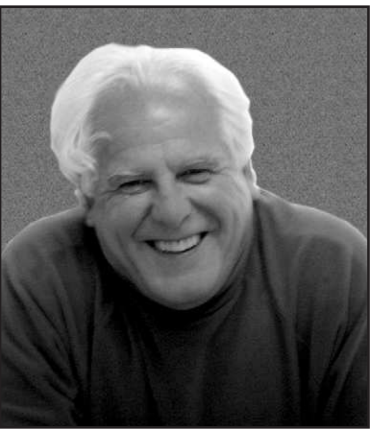
Business Notes

Vernonia changes course, contracts with independent planner

Aldace Howard of Forest Grove is Vernonia's newly contracted City Planner. Howard has worked as a planner or on planning commissions in Forest Grove, New Hampshire, Corvallis, and Tigard.



Aldace Howard

All building permits will go to Howard, who will review them, prepare staff reports, write necessary letters, give presentations to the Planning Commission and City Council, and draft changes to the city's Comprehensive Plan. He will be available at City Hall on Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., or at other times as needed by calling City Hall. Howard said, "I'm willing to help anybody at any time. The citizens of this community pay my salary so I'm available to them."

Up to about 1964, there were no laws governing land use in Oregon. The State of Oregon was zoned for development in the 70s. Starting then, every city put together a Comprehensive Plan using 14 stated goals. The environment, transportation, housing, sewer/water, variances, etc. were all addressed in the plan. Cities put together zones for each parcel inside the urban boundaries and included annexation plans. Each county had a plan, too, and the county reviewed the cities' plans and the state reviewed both. Comprehensive Plans must be kept updated and any changes, including zoning changes, sent to the state. After the state review, the plans go back to be approved by the city planning commissions and city councils.

Howard's role is to handle all the steps involved in the planning process for the City of Vernonia.

Northwest Oregon RC&D receives national award for ongoing works

The National Association of Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Councils has announced that the Northwest Oregon RC&D Council has been awarded membership in the National Circle of Diamonds Program.

As a member of the Circle, the Northwest Oregon RC&D Council has demonstrated its impact on the quality of life within its local area. Circle members are publicly accountable and realize that their accountability directly relates to the Councils structure, process, and outcomes each member of the Circle attains.

The Northwest Oregon RC&D Council has shown, and promises to continue showing, their ability to reach and attain specific benchmarks set forth in the program guidelines. This mark of excellence shows the honesty, integrity and strong commitment of the Northwest Oregon RC&D Council to the RC&D mission.

The Northwest Oregon RC&D Council region includes seven counties — Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill. The Council provides a wide range of assistance to area residents, focusing on six broad areas of concern such as forestry, water, land use, soil, economic development, and air quality.

The Council builds partnerships and coalitions with many community leaders and organizations throughout the RC&D Area. The NW Oregon RC&D Council identifies agencies, organizations, and individuals who can assist in completing each step of the various project plans including outlining sources of technical assistance and listing possible financial sources.

Ham radio tests will be given in Vernonia

FCC Amateur Radio Examinations for Technician Class, General Class and Morse Code at 5 words-per-minute, will be given Sunday, June 25, at 1:00 p.m. at the Vernonia Fire Hall, 555 E. Bridge St. There is a non-refundable fee of $14.00 per examination. Retakes are also available.

To take the examination, bring cash or a check on a local bank and two pieces of ID

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