

Watershed tech specialist joins Columbia SWCD staff

The Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District [CSWCD] has added Scappoose resident Scott Gall as the Watershed Technical Specialist for the District. Gall graduated from Oregon State University in March with a Master's degree in Soil Science. In his first few days on the job Gall has enjoyed getting acquainted with Columbia County and its residents. The opportunity to partner with local landowners to work toward conservation is an exciting challenge he looks forward to meeting.

In recent years, lawmakers have underscored the need for improving water quality for people, fish and wildlife. This resulted in passage of Senate Bill 1010, a plan to prevent water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion. SB1010, efforts to save salmon and improve watershed health, are



Scott Gall

now at the forefront of conservation issues statewide and will ultimately require small acreage landowners to be aware of the many changing requirements that pertain to their individual operations.

Help is available – the CSWCD and partner agency, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), work together on many programs and services to aid landowners in management

planning. Together, landowners and conservation professionals can sort out the rules, design a personalized conservation plan, and apply for cost-shared incentive programs. Various programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program [EQIP], Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program [CREP] and others are available to eligible participants.

County residents who do not live along waterways will also be impacted by the changing times – a conservation conscious public is looking to apply a "We're in this together..." approach to assuring that conditions less than desirable are corrected. Locally, the CSWCD and NRCS are providing assistance, not regulation, by emphasizing education and problem solving as a means to improve and sustain our enviable Pacific Northwest way of life.

Many agencies work together to sponsor a broad-based attempt to address environmental priorities for Oregon; the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board funds local watershed councils leading the way in assessing watershed health and designing remedies for imperiled streams and salmon restoration. Oregon Department of Forestry, Department of Energy, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Division of State Lands and others play a role in supporting the activities of the Columbia SWCD, NRCS, Nehalem Watershed Councils, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council and Lower Columbia River Watershed Council.

For more information regarding programs and local watershed councils, call Scott Gall, or Don Mehlhoff, NRCS Conservationist, at 503- 397-4555.

Filing starts for city council and mayor candidates

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tions is a four-year term. The open seats are currently held by Mayor Sally Harrison, and Councilors Brett Costly and Shirlee Daughtry.

Four positions will be up for grabs in Banks – mayor and three council seats.

The open positions are currently held by Mayor Mike Lyda, and Councilors Pete Edison, Jason Short and Dan Keller.

Candidates must be registered voters, and residents in the city where they file nomination papers. The last day to file in Vernonia is August 24, 2006; in Banks the deadline is August 29, 2006.

For more information, visit or call city hall in Vernonia at 503-429-5291, and Banks at 503-324-5112.

Community Calendar

AUGUST 2006							SEPTEMBER 2006							OCTOBER 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	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
- 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 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 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
- Vernonia Health Center 2nd Monday 6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
- Vernonia Learning Center 1st & Last Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Vernonia Parks Committee 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- 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 2nd 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.