

Council approves borrowing \$25,000 to operate Learning Center

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Kline's update on the wastewater project included that the 30 foot wet well at pump station 2, on Mist Drive, will be completed this week, though the pump will not come in for several months due to backups caused by resources needed for the hurricane Katrina cleanup. Kline also said that the 'taste test,' where several people drank what was labeled as level IV effluent from one of the pilot membrane systems, was a joke, but was perceived as a deceptive act. Kline said,

"I'm sorry for those who took it seriously, that was a serious oversight," and that such a joke will not occur in the future.

Council unanimously approved borrowing a 5-year, \$25,000 loan from Columbia Pacific Economic Development (Col-Pac) for Learning Center operations. Kline told council that the approved budget had included a \$25,000 loan from Oregon Economic Development Department but that loan was not available this year. Repayment of the loan is expected to be from Learning Center

revenues, Kline said, that the loan can be paid early with no penalties, and that the loan will be guaranteed by the city.

Kline told council that he will review the Learning Center budget in depth and will then give a comprehensive presentation.

In other business, council:

- Unanimously approved the second reading of Ordinance 711 (setting rules for Bed & Breakfasts),

- Approved a modification to the Vernonia Police Department's new sergeant position,

making it a non-exempt (eligible for overtime pay) position,

- Authorized Dick Kline as a signer on the city's bank accounts,

- Unanimously agreed that they wished to exercise the city's option to buy back unused cemetery plots from the Barkers, who have moved. Council approved a waiver of the transfer fees associated with this purchase,

- Appointed Carolyn Velasco to fill an open position on the Cemetery Beautification Committee, and

- Set a joint workshop for council and the Cemetery Beautification Committee, on October 12, 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, to review and revise the cemetery ordinances.

The next regular meeting of the Vernonia City Council will be by October 16, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**Don't miss
Salmon Festival
on October 7**

Letters

From page 3

ter. The raffle and dinner was very successful, raising over \$3,000 towards the new senior center project. Most winners were from local areas including Birkenfeld, Clatskanie, Mist, Rainier, and Vernonia.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations which made this raffle possible: Allen Russell, Bob Curl, Mike Pihl Logging, Gwin Logging, Wauna Federal Credit Union, West Oregon Electric Co-op., Weyerhaeuser, Sue & Jim Grove Concrete and Edith Gerritse.

The following businesses and individuals donated prizes for the raffle: Shaw Supply, Vernonia Senior Center, Napa Auto Parts, Sentry Market, G & J Enterprises, True Value Hardware, Black Bear Coffee Shop, Eileen Williams, Bernice Frey

and Andy Nebergall.

The Vernonia Senior Center would like to extend a special thanks to Vernonia Hardware, Triple S Service, and Sporty's in Clatskanie for selling tickets for our raffle and showing exceptional community spirit.

Volunteers worked hard to make the raffle and dinner a success. The following individuals donated either their time or food to the raffle and dinner: George and Gladys Gans, Dorothy Howard, Bill James, Francine Lentz, Karen Miller, Connie King, Valerie Mack, Jo Moccardine, Kristina McCord, Gene and Jeri Cropp, Teresa Due and Rachel Brown. Bill James was Emcee and Bill Yeo assisted with the drawing and auction and was entertaining as ever.

The Vernonia Senior Center and I want to thank everyone

who helped with the raffle and everyone who bought tickets. We are proud to live in a community that supports its seniors and we are hopeful to make this raffle an annual event with bigger and better prized next year.

**Bill James
VP & Raffle Coordinator
Vernonia Senior Center**

Wonderful opening for Learning Center

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Vernonia Community Learning Center building committee and all of the wonderful people who have worked so hard to get the center up and running, thank you to those who attended our grand opening on September 16. I also want to thank the Salmon

Festival's "Knee Deep in Salmon," for sharing the artists' incredible Salmon with this event. Music provided by Silk and Satin (Shawn Baker, Dennis Chadek and Allee Chadek) and Madeleine Gendron on keyboard added so much to the days festivities.

Thanks to Representative Brad Witt for his kind words and cutting of the official ribbon. Now that you've had a chance to see the building and get an idea of the possibilities, please, use the building and its programs. Remember, this is your Learning Center. Do you need computer training like me? Would you like to change jobs and need some new skills? Do you need to increase or strengthen your skills for your current job? Do you need some extra credits to finish high school? Is a GED in your fu-

ture? Or, are you on the fast track and want a head start? How about a class to stir the artist within? Do you feel you may have the Great American novel lurking in your future and need a little help getting started?

If I have piqued your interest, please contact Jessica Jones at 503-429-1030. Thank you all again for your continued support and happy learning!

**Sally Harrison
Vernonia**

Tree, plaque honor a great school leader

To the Editor:

Thanks to our great superintendent, Ken Cox, Mrs. Anne Kingsley-Beeson's tree and the plaque in her honor have been beautifully placed at the driveway entrance (on the left), between the middle school and high school. It recognizes her as an amazingly outstanding individual. Her beauty will forever continue to flourish on the school grounds with our appreciation for her.

The district is off to a bright future with another wonderful leader making progress on a daily basis. Keep up the great work!

**Virginia Kepner
Vernonia**

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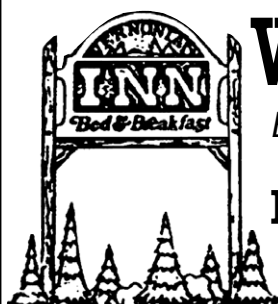
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