

Three Commissioner candidates have very different backgrounds

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44 years.



Rita Bernhard

As a volunteer, Bernhard served on the Scappoose Planning Commission, the city council and was Mayor of Scappoose. As a county commissioner, she now represents the county on many regional boards and agencies.

Bernhard said she is seeking reelection because "...there is work left to do," including industrial development at Port Westward and the Scappoose Air-

port.

The county's greatest assets are its people, Bernhard says, with many involved in volunteer positions or in public/private partnerships.

The biggest challenges are the need for more family wage jobs, growth management and budgetary constraints. She is concerned about maintaining existing programs with the loss of many funding sources and says caution is needed to avoid instituting programs that aren't sustainable.

Jonelle Stroup

Constitution party candidate Jonelle Stroup, 47, of rural Scappoose, graduated from Clackamas High School and took some classes at Oregon State University (OSU). She was a carpenter, then became an electrician and belongs to the IBEW, Local 48. As a volun-

teer, she served as president of the carpenters' union for two years and, while her children were growing up, with Future Farmers of America.



Jonelle Stroup

Stroup said she is running because she thinks "regular people" are needed, rather than "professional politicians," for a fresh perspective.

The county's greatest assets are its livability, easy commute and affordable housing, Stroup said. The biggest challenges are schools, water and sewer,

roads, and the need to increase jobs through economic development.

In the future, she said, she wants to see county budgets fund fire departments and the Sheriff's office so they don't need special tax levies.

Stroup has no experience with local or county agencies – either volunteer or paid – and was unaware that schools, water and sewer systems, and fire departments are not the responsibility of county government.

Jeff VanNatta

Republican Jeff VanNatta, 46, of rural Rainier, is the third generation on the land his grandfather settled. He now lives there with his wife and son. After graduating from Rainier High School, he earned a BS degree in Safety Studies at OSU and took industrial

courses at Lower Columbia College in Longview.



Jeff VanNatta

He worked as a safety coordinator for a paper mill, then was an audiometric test technician for rural electric cooperatives and public utility districts in seven western states. He then returned to work on the family tree farm, taking time in 1990 to spend a year reworking machinery that formed grain pellets, so it could be used to make wood pellets.

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Community Calendar

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

VERNONIA

Al-Anon	Fridays	7:00 p.m. Grange Hall
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
Public Works Committee	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
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
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.