

Norma Olson to be honored for work as human rights advo-

December 10 marked the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a landmark United Nations document created in response to the atrocities of World War II. To recognize the anniversary of the signing of the UDHR, Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity (CCCHD) is honoring Norma Olson, posthumously, for her work to advance human rights in Columbia County.

On a daily basis, Olson embodied the essence of so many of the UDHR goals. She worked tirelessly to found the Woman's Resource Center and served on the board for many years. She was appointed to the Oregon Women's Rights Commission, appointed to the Commission for Women by Governor Barbara Roberts and Governor Vic Atiyeh, and served on the National Organi-

zation for Women's Hispanic Women's Caucus. Olson also worked tirelessly for schools and children, organizing clothing and schools supply drives, as well as hosting exchange students with the local Rotary Club.

Many people think human rights abuses happen in far-away places. The reality, however, is that individuals' human rights are threatened everywhere, including Columbia County. Violence, abuse, neglect, censorship, discrimination, inadequate housing and education, hunger, withholding of due process of law and arbitrary arrest are human rights violations people in America face every day.

The Declaration expressed, for the first time, a clear and comprehensive vision of basic human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political, and social

– that all people have, simply because they are human. Human rights are rooted in common concepts of dignity and justice, and local traditions and values do not take precedence over these universal principles described in the 30 articles of the Declaration.

CCCHD board member Marjorie Kundiger said of Olson, "She was instrumental in making my life in Columbia County more meaningful. I had the opportunity to work with her on a number of occasions and she truly embodied the spirit and goals of the UDHR."

Norma Olson was just one individual who worked to advance human rights in our community. The UDHR confirmed that human rights are indivisible. There is no hierarchy of human rights and no one set of rights can be enjoyed at the expense of other rights. The right

to an adequate standard of living (Article 25), for example, does not take precedence over the right of freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Article 20). People cannot advance their economic, social and cultural rights without the political space and civil freedom to do so.

Norma Olson will be honored at The CCCHD Winter Gala on January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Her family will be presented the UDHR award in her name. The Portland Gay Men's Chorus will provide entertainment. Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by calling 503-543-8417.

Council hears of budget process

A budget workshop was presented by Vernonia City Administrator Dick Kline, at the December 18 City Council meeting. Kline told council that they and the public often see only the expenditures (the bills to be paid) without seeing the revenues and assets and that a balance sheet or profit/loss statement can give a more complete picture.

Using a balance sheet drawn on a whiteboard Kline explained that on the left side

of the sheet would usually be assets, both liquid (cash) and fixed (land, buildings, equipment) and on the right side would be short term and long term liabilities (monthly bills and other debts). He went on to explain that assets minus liabilities equal equity and the bigger the equity the better. There are also revenues and expenditures and a positive difference is preferable.

Some expenditures are on **Please see page 5**

Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2006							JANUARY 2007							FEBRUARY 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28			
31																				

VERNONIA

- Al-Anon Fridays 7:00 p.m. Grange Hall
- Alcoholics Anonymous Mondays 6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Thursdays 6:30 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 503-429-3018
- 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
- Narcotics Anonymous Saturdays 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
- Pioneer Museum For Info Call 503-429-3713
- 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.