

The INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22, No. 6

"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

March 15, 2007

Summer must be near...



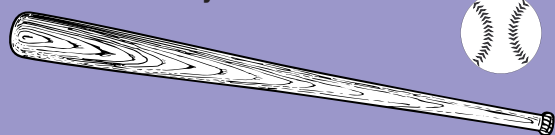
Vernonia High School girls came away with a win Tuesday for their first softball game of the season. The Lady Loggers defeated Gaston, 6-1, at home.

At left, VHS catcher Britney Paden is ready to handle the ball as it comes off the bat of Gaston's Angela Lance.



Vernonia High School's baseball team had a rough season starter, losing at home to Gaston, 10-6.

At right, Logger Brent Thompson connects for a sacrifice fly.



Unknowns add to cost of improvements

The March 5 Vernonia City Council meeting was occupied with administrative changes. Council President Steve Whiteman presided over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Sally Harrison.

Council approved a change order for payment of an additional \$15,652.09 to Triad Mechanical for new work orders as part of the Vernonia Wastewater System Improvements Project. New work orders occur when, during the course of the job, new or extra work becomes necessary. For example, one of the approved work orders was for the removal of a concrete pillar in an area where pipe was being laid. Until the ground was opened, exposing

the pipe, they didn't know it was in the way and would have to be removed. In the course of large projects there may be hundreds of new or changed work orders submitted. Each order is reviewed and often negotiated, and not all new work orders are approved.

Two new advisory committees were formed; one to review technical qualifications of engineering firms interested in participating in Phase II of the Wastewater Treatment Project; the second to review the qualifications of grant managers for Phase II. The city received a grant from CDBG funds for \$548,000 to complete these reviews. Councilor Brett Costley volunteered to be the council

representative on the first committee and Councilor Steve Whiteman will be liaison to the second committee.

In other business;

- council approved amending the ordinances establishing a Parks Committee and a Planning Commission. This was done to standardize committees and commissions which are in advisory roles to the council.

- heard from Chief of Police Mat Workman that he has narrowed the field of applicants for the open police position to seven and will be holding final interviews and choosing a new officer in the next week or so.

The next council meeting will be March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Some seats remain vacant as filing deadline nears

Elections for school district and fire district directors will be held May 15. Filing for those positions closes today, March 15, and there were still open positions as of Wednesday morning, March 14. Filings at that time were as follows:

Vernonia School District

Position 1 – Angie Rhodes
Position 2 – Open
Position 3 – Tim Bamberg
Position 4 – Ernie Smith
Position 7 – Tammy Jennings

Jewell School District

Position 1 – Gerald L. Coy
– Allen Foster
Position 3 – Cathy Rozinek
Position 5 – Carolyn Eady
– Karl E. Meier

Banks School District

Position 3 – Duane Lundsten
Position 5 – Open

Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District

Position 2 – Open
Position 3 – Open
Position 4 – Jeremy Woodall

Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District

Position 1 – Stephen Butsko
Position 2 – Donna Adams

Banks Fire District

Position 2 – Mitch Vandehey
Position 4 – Mark Schmidlin
Position 5 – Michael Durham

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday

The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Vernonia will be held at 2:00 p.m. on March 17. Participants will start from the home of Pat and Darlene Knight at the corner of State Avenue and Bridge Street (across State from the NAPA store) and go to City Hall. There is no fee, and anyone feeling "Irish" is welcome to participate.



Town Hall meeting about speed limit

A Town Hall meeting will be held to consider posting a 20 mph speed limit from Rose Ave. to Grant Ave. The meeting is being held to receive public comment on the idea.

The meeting will be on Monday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge St.

Open House set for Gateway Projects

The Vernonia Gateway Projects group invites the community to an open house on Saturday, March 17, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the pocket park next to Black Bear Coffee shop. Look at the archways up close and learn about how these were made possible.

Volunteers needed for summer events

They are back...KUPL Fishing with Father will be in Vernonia on June 16. Cycle Oregon will return on June 22-24.

Volunteers are needed... you can help with a time commitment of one to eight hours, or work behind the scenes in

the planning process. You are needed. To help with the KUPL event, call Paula Hanson at 503-429-9101. To help with Cycle Oregon, call the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce at 503-429-6081 or email info@vernoniachamber.org.