

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

September 6, 2007

Fall is here...



Vernonia students stream into school for the first day of the 2007-2008 school year.

Public questions council on City contracting

Because two Vernonia council meetings were held, Aug. 20 and Sept. 4, since the last issue of *The INDEPENDENT*, the proceedings are being combined to eliminate repetition.

Vernonia City Council held a second hearing, September 4, on the 20 acre parcel the city owns and is offering for sale. This hearing was needed to set the general terms and conditions for the proposed sale so that deliberations on any purchase offers can be done in executive session, rather than open session.

There was no testimony from the public either in favor of, or opposed to the conditions set for the sale, but there was a lengthy discussion, started by a question from the public, about why a broker from out of the

area was chosen to market this property. City Administrator M.R. "Dick" Kline said he wasn't really involved in the decision and Mayor Sally Harrison said the broker chosen, Chris Balmes, of Tualatin, agreed to contact local agents and to share the listing and commission. Asked if any local brokers had been contacted before making the selection, Harrison said she didn't know, as city planner Aldie Howard did the work on this. At the Aug. 20 meeting, Harrison had said she felt that an out of area real estate broker "gets out more and would do a better job of representing the city."

Councilor Steve Whiteman made the final comments of the hearing when he said, "I didn't like the way the real estate

agent was chosen. We need a policy to say we need to bid out so it doesn't look like we just hand picked somebody." Later in the meeting, council approved listing the property at \$545,000.

A public hearing was held August 20 on changes required by the Federal Emergency Ma-

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Meet Banks' new city manager

Meet Banks' new City Manager Jim Hough, pronounced 'huff'. Jim and his wife Marky have been living in Monmouth. Hough's education includes a master's degree in public administration from Wichita State College in Kansas and, recently, he has shared his schooling with others, as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Ad-

Community plans benefits for seriously injured logger

Vernonian Dean Schaumburg received major injuries in a logging accident on August 16, and is still hospitalized. Many fund raising activities are planned to help Schaumburg and his family.

Sunday, September 9, 1:00-6:00 p.m., features a spaghetti feed at the Buckhorn Restaurant with spaghetti, salad, bread, juice, coffee or tea. Meal tickets are being presold and are available at the Buckhorn Restaurant or Vernonia Sentry at \$8.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 11 and under.

Raffle tickets will also be available at the feed for \$1 each or six for \$5. All proceeds go to help with medical bills.

Multiple events, including a concert, are planned for Friday, September 21, starting at 5:00 p.m. in Hawkins Park

The evening includes food

for sale by Bill and Carla Long of Café 47, T-shirt sales, a bake sale, and an auction called by Bill Yeo at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. there will be a concert by western singer Jesse Cain, who appeared here during the KUPL Fishing Derby.

Admission is \$5.00 per person. Everything is being donated, so all money taken in will go to the Schaumburgs to help with medical bills. There is also an account set up at Wauna for donations.

To donate an auction item, call Ginger at 503-429-2462.

The Schaumburg and DeWitt families also want to express gratitude to the many concerned people who are helping Dean and his family, and a special thanks to Mike Kay for his remarkable assistance.

Positions open on City boards

Vernonia currently has openings for volunteers to serve on the following committees:

Public Works Committee has two openings. This committee acts as an advisory committee to the Vernonia City Council in the areas of sewer, water, stormwater and streets.

Vernonia Community Learning Center Committee oversees operations of the Learn-

ing Center and advises city council on such operations. This committee has one opening.

There is one opening on the Airport Committee, an advisory committee that looks at issues, needs and opportunities at the airport and advises council on proposed actions.

The city has not been advertising committee openings lately but rather filling them from contacts of the other committee members. All appointments to committees are made by Mayor Sally Harrison in response to letters of interest received at City Hall for open positions. Citizens of Vernonia who would like to help advise the council on issues in the areas covered by these committee openings should call 503-429-5291 for information on applying.

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