

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Autumn Glory



Nature's palette of autumn colors, as at Vernonia Lake, reminds us that winter is near.

Has city been de-Klined?

After more than a week of rumors regarding the possible resignation of Vernonia City Administrator, M.R. "Dick" Kline, Mayor Sally Harrison handed her gavel to Councilor Steve Whiteman at the October 15 Vernonia City Council meeting and read from a lengthy diatribe to a standing room only crowd.

Harrison said that Kline has decided to resign and, in what one spectator called a "vicious attack", placed the blame for Kline's decision on *The Independent*. "It's a sad day for Vernonia, Dick Kline has decided to resign," said Harrison, before attributing Kline's decision to "abuse *The Independent* has handed out." She referred to *The Independent's* Publisher Clark McGaugh as a five year old with a loaded gun, and alleged that *The Independent* printed lies and rumors.

No resignation letter has been tendered and no date was given for his last day. Kline made no statement and has refused to answer any questions from *The Independent*, stating, "I won't talk to you."

There was also a public hearing at the council meeting on the adoption of a regulated adult business ordinance. Council unanimously approved

five motions to put the new ordinance in place. Second readings, and a final public hearing, will take place at the next council meeting.

The only piece of business on the agenda was appointments to the Airport Committee. Kline recommended, as he had at the last meeting, that the applications be referred to the committee for their recommendation to the council. Council agreed.

In his City Administrator report, Kline told council that there has been a problem with the new financial software and, though July's numbers are done, he doesn't have them ready for council to review. Kline went on to say that the auditors may be in Vernonia this month, though he doesn't yet know exactly when.

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Fireworks Notice

There will be fireworks on Friday, October 19, for the Vernonia High School Homecoming football game.

Public certification set for county vote counting equipment

The public certification test of Columbia County's vote counting equipment will be on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, for the November 6, special election.

Testing will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the county Elections Department at the courthouse in St. Helens.

Ballot drop sites for area voters who do not mail their ballots will be as follows:

- Vernonia Library during regular hours, plus extended hours November 6 from noon to 8:00 p.m.

- Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Dist. Main Station during regular office hours. Hours for November 6 will be noon to 8:00 p.m.

State award to 9-1-1 head Sally Jones

Sally Jones, the administrator of Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District, was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by the combined Oregon chapters of the National Emergency Number Association and Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO-NENA) at their annual awards banquet in Welches, Oregon on September 12. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the chapter's highest award, created to recognize a distinguished member who has demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of emergency communications, has exhibited outstanding leadership within the chapter and who has made significant contribu-

tions to emergency communications in Oregon over his/her lifetime.

"We at Columbia 9-1-1 are enormously pleased that Sally was recognized for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the 9-1-1 community", said Board President Kathy Denckla of Vernonia, "but her quality and abilities are certainly no surprise to us."

Jones began her public safety communications career in 1973 as a police, fire and emergency medical dispatcher at WSU in Pullman, Washington, where she also volunteered with a group that started the first rape crisis hotline and domestic assault education system for law enforcement in

Pullman.

From 1978-1989, Jones worked as a 9-1-1 dispatcher, Please see page 4

Public Health offers free flu shots

The Columbia Health District Public Health will offer free flu shots in five clinics throughout Columbia County in November.

The free flu shot clinic in Vernonia will be held Tuesday, November 13, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Vernonia Middle School.

"We are inviting as many people as possible to be inoculated at these clinics," said Edlerina Ortiz-Clawson, emergency services coordinator for the Columbia Health District, "It will give our public health staff

and volunteers a chance to see how to handle the large numbers of people we would have if it were an actual influenza pandemic."

Two of the other free flu shot clinics are scheduled for November 7 at Scappoose High School, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and at St. Helens High School on November 30 (time not yet specified).

For information on other free flu shot clinics in the county, call Ortiz-Clawson at 503-397-4651, ext. 215.