

# Public interviews will precede selection of councilor

The July 7 Vernonia City Council meeting (with all current members in attendance) started off with a discussion of the process that will be used to fill the open councilor position. Five applications have been received and the city council agreed to start the July 21 meeting at 5:30 p.m. with interviews of these applicants.

Council approved a new contract with Jordan Schrader Ramis PC. The contract calls for an attorney to be present at three meetings every two months and attend other city meetings as requested, plus the handling of day-to-day legal advice and assistance, and they will represent the city in any litigation. The city will pay \$1855.00 per month for the above mentioned services. Other services will be provided for an hourly rate.

Council had asked Chief of Police Mat Workman to look

into laws regarding use of golf carts on city streets. Chief Workman told council that what he found was that golf carts are legal on city streets (never on highways, such as Hwy. 47) only when the person driving has a Class C driver's license due to disability, and has given up their regular driver's license. Workman said he would be contacting all known golf cart drivers to let them know the rules (see Did You Know on page 18 for more information).

In other business, council;

- heard that a lifeguard started at the community swimming hole.

- a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria, that used to be the K9 unit, was declared surplus and will be sold.

- approved making an application for grant funds from Oregon Economic Development Department for rehabilitation of single family homes damaged

by the flood of December 2007.

- gave consensus for D.A.D.s Recycling to continue to accept commingled recyclables for the rest of July.

- heard a presentation by Jean Lewis about the possibility of starting up a teen court in Columbia County. There will be more information provided on this project at future meetings.

The next council meeting will start at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall, on July 21 with interviews of those applying for the open council position, followed by the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

## Vernonia Friendship Jamboree

August 1, 2 & 3

# Fair housing added to BOLI duties

For the first time in 15 years the state Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) is again investigating federal fair housing complaints in Oregon. Since 1992, complaints based on federal fair housing laws have been routed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regional office in Seattle.

"Investigations conducted closer to home tend to provide a smoother process for both the tenant and the landlord, who need to be close to their investigator and case proceedings," said Moley Good with the Fair Housing Council of Oregon. "We also expect investigations will be processed in a timelier manner. Some Oregonians have waited upwards of 2 to 3 years to have their claims heard in Seattle," he added.

Legislation passed in 2007, and amended in 2008, enabled BOLI to investigate these cases under contract with HUD.

The federal agency contracts with state governments, and provides funding to enforce housing discrimination laws if their programs are substantially equivalent to federal law. This program is referred to as the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP). HUD certified Oregon's standard in March and contracted with BOLI to begin investigating cases in the Bureau's offices around the state. Since May, HUD has referred 23 fair housing cases to BOLI that would otherwise have been investigated from Seattle.

"BOLI is proud to again take a leading role in protecting Oregonians from housing discrimination," said Commissioner Brad Avakian. "Our investigators take this responsibility seriously and we will ensure that appropriate action is taken when tenants are victims of housing discrimination."

**Please see page 22**

# Community Calendar

<b>VERNONIA</b>	<b>MIST-BIRKENFELD</b>	<b>BANKS</b>	<b>COLUMBIA COUNTY</b> (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)
Alcoholics Anonymous Monday 6:30 p.m., 410 North Street	M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg. 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Alcoholics Anonymous Fridays 7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	Board of Commissioners Wednesdays 10 a.m., Courthouse
American Legion Post #119 2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue	M-BRFPD Board Workshop 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Alcoholics Anonymous Wednesdays 7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	Citizens for Senior Justice 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Arts & Crafts Society 2nd Thursday 2:00 p.m., City Library	M-B Ambulance Drill 1st & 2nd Thursdays 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	American Legion Post #90 2nd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m., Main Street Post	Columbia Soil & Water District 3rd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
Booster Club 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Fire Drill 1st & 2nd Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks City Council 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m., City Hall	County Fair Board 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 201 Tuesdays 7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin	M-B Helping Circle 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Fire District #13 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Station 13	County Parks Commission 3rd Monday 6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Boy Scout Troop 860 Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., LDS Church	M-B SAR Drill 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Library Commission 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., City Library	County Parks Commission 3rd Monday 6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Cemetery Beautification Comm. 2nd Thursday 6:30 p.m., City Hall	M-B Volunteer Assoc. 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Planning Commission Last Tuesday 7:00 p.m., City Hall	Mental Health Advisory Comm. Quarterly For Info call 503-397-7211
CERT 4th Wednesday For Info Call 503-429-3018	Natal Grange 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall	Banks School Board 2nd Monday 7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library	Mental Health Advisory Comm. 3rd Thursday 5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30
Chamber of Commerce 2nd Wednesday For Info Call 503-429-6081	T.O.P.S. Mondays 6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Youth Group Sundays, Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.	Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm. Quarterly For Info call 503-397-7211
Community Coalition 2nd Monday 12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council For date call 429-2401 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Chamber of Commerce 1st Thursday 12:30 p.m., Fire District Office	
Cub Scout Pack 201 Scout Cabin For Info Call 503-429-4250		CPO 14 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m., City Library	
Friends of the Library 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library		Friends of the Library 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., City Library	
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2 For Info Call 503-819-0143		Lions Club 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 p.m., Brown Derby	
Hands On Art Committee 4:00 p.m., City Hall		Sunset Park Assoc. 3rd Wednesday 8:00 p.m., Gun Club	
Izaak Walton League 3rd Thursday For location call 503-429-7193		T.O.P.S. Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.	
Lions Club 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant			
Municipal Airport Committee 4th Thursday 7:00 p.m., City Hall			
Narcotics Anonymous Saturdays 7:00 p.m., 410 North Street			
Pioneer Museum For Info Call 503-429-3713			
Public Works Committee 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m., City Hall			
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 Wednesday 6:00 p.m., VLC			
Vernonia Parks Committee 3rd Wednesday 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 6:00 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			
Vernonia Transfer Station 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Behind VHS			
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			

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.