

FEMA considering greater elevation for homes damaged in flood

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commend that houses be raised two to three feet above flood stage, rather than one foot. Parrow reported that the Unmet Needs Committee has been in touch with affected residents on this. Parrow also reported that \$90,000 cap on home buy-outs has been lifted because additional money has been received for this purpose.

Mayor Sally Harrison spoke and then read a prepared statement in response to Leonard Simmon’s request (made at the last council meeting) for an apology from her for reading a letter about him from a former city employee at an earlier meeting. Harrison read, “Leonard, this all started when you refused to pay the \$12 and \$1 on the water bill...When someone like you decides not to pay it puts added responsibility on the rest of us.” She finished by saying, “When you publicly apologize by paying

your share, then and only then, will I apologize. Until then, I consider this matter closed.” Simmons only response was to ask for a copy of the statement. Harrison agreed to give him a copy after she types it (it was handwritten).

Council was told that a farewell party for Chief of Police Mat Workman and his family has been scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. on September 28 at the Scout Cabin. This will be an alcohol-free potluck. The community is invited to attend and say goodbye to the Workmans. Workman told council, “It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your chief for the past four years. From my time in Vernonia, I take away a wonderful experience.”

At the last council meeting, council asked staff to determine any deed restrictions on Ora Bolmeier Park. City Attorney Jeff Bennett reported that the deed restricts the use to “exclu-

sively public purpose.” Bennett explained that there are many public purposes, but that, basically, the city could not sell the property. Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson suggested that an intriguing idea might be to try forming a partnership with a timber company to manage the city’s forested properties, saying, “It is extremely difficult for us to do it.” Council asked for more information on this possibility at the next meeting and asked staff to review Ora Bolmeier Park for potential ‘danger’ trees.

Johnson offered council another option for the small parcels of property adjacent to the alleyway behind the Buckhorn Restaurant and Muffy’s. The new option is to offer the parcels, which have already been declared surplus, to the adjacent landowners for sale, based on a fair market value (which needs to be determined). Johnson determined,

since the last meeting, that the city is not required to seek bids for surplus property. Council consensus was for Johnson to work on this option.

In other business, council;
• approved the closure of Park Drive from 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3, until noon on Sunday, October 5, to accommodate Salmon Festival activities.

• approved the first reading of an Ordinance 854 to update the Ordinance 678 establishing the office of city administrator. The new language comes from a League of Oregon Cities document. The second reading will take place at the next council meeting.

• approved a resolution endorsing the Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District proposal to renew operating funding on the November ballot.

• held a work study session on proposed rate and fee increases. A public hearing will

be held to take public testimony on the proposed rate increases at 7:00 p.m. on October 6, prior to the regular meeting, when the rates may be adopted.

The next council meeting, starting with the rates and fees public hearing, will be October 6, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Newest email scam seeks same old info

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cluding name, address, phone number and passport or state driver’s license number. It promises upon receipt to alert the U.S. government and state police of the monies being sent to ensure their prompt arrival. The Oregon State Police confirms that they are not involved in any such activities.

Victims may contact the Attorney General’s consumer hotline 1-877-877-9392. The Oregon Department of Justice is online at www.doj.state.or.us

Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Monday	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 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	6:30 p.m., City Hall
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 503-429-4250
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2		For Info Call 503-819-0143
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
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	2nd Wednesday	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, 3rd & 4th Tuesday	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	7:30 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 Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
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.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211

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.