Airport residents cite wetlands and other concerns

From page 1

camping facilities and businesses (maybe even some new hangars) that would support the existing airport.

In addition, the Beros would like to phase in some industrial buildings that could supply jobs in the area. These buildings would be on Bero's property, probably leased by other business owners, and the buildings themselves are envisioned to look barn-like with hangar-type doors. Qualified businesses would need to comply with the zoning change by being airport related. "My goal is to get jobs out here," Tim Bero said.

That's one side of the story. On the other hand, the County denied the zoning request, at least partly because there is already industrial-zoned land available, both at the airport and on Knott St., that isn't being used. State land use rules consider existing available land before allowing more land to be re-zoned. Additionally, industrial land exists elsewhere, and there is an Airport Industrial zone at the Scappoose Airport. That's not Vernonia, but may be close enough, based on state rules.

Adjacent landowners, who could go from looking at open fields to looking at barnlike industrial structures if the plan went through, say they are not against growth and that growth on already existing industrial land at the airport or in the city would benefit the city more than this development on private land. They have also expressed concerns about available water, the size and ownership of the existing road, and the impact of development on future flood events.

What's next? The Beros' zoning change request now goes before the Columbia County Board of Commissioners for consideration. That will happen at a meeting November 12, starting at 10:00 a.m. in room 308 at the Courthouse in St. Helens. The meeting is open to the public.

Whether or not the zoning change is approved by the Board of Commissioners, the expectation on both sides of the debate is that the decision will be appealed to the state Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). If LUBA should approve the zone change, the next step require the Beros to provide detailed development plans to the County Planning Commission for approval for each stage of development. Such plans would have to detail how issues such as water, sewer, roads, wetlands, flooding, etc., would be addressed in the development plans.

For now, the Beros plans are in a holding pattern, awaiting the November 12 hearing before the Columbia County Board of Commissioners.

Format changed for Flood Town Hall

The Flood Town Hall on October 22, at Vernonia City Hall, was changed to an informal opportunity for attendees to identify information or questions they would like to have answered at the next Town Hall. The format was changed after two presenters were unable to attend.

The questions asked at this meeting included:

• how will we be notified in the event of another flood,

• will FEMA housing remain for the length of time needed to repair, lift or replace homes?

Other questions can be referred to bill@vernoniaflood.com or call Bill Haack at 503-429-4948, ext. 203.

The above questions and more will be answered at the December 3 Town Hall. Information about the time and place of the next meeting will be included in the November 20 issue of *The Independent*.

Planner is help to local board

When Vernonia's new Planning Consultant, Carole Connell, started here in October, she was already somewhat familiar with Vernonia, as she did consulting work for the city in 2005-2006.

Connell is currently Planner for Gaston, North Plains, Sandy and Wood Village, and has been working with Columbia County on changes to the county dog kennel ordinance. She has a Bachelor's degree in geography and is certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). In 1995, Connell earned the Karen B. Smith Award from the American Planners Association for producing "A Guide to Community Visioning", which is still used by planners nationally. Connell is also a founder of the Oregon Downtown Development Association (ODDA). Her strong planning

Please see page 5

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.