

Wyden reaffirms support for Vernonia

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden was in Vernonia on May 24 for a Town Hall meeting, with about 45 in the audience, at the Vernonia High School gymnasium. Wyden reminded the audience that when he took office in 1985 he pledged to hold a meeting every year in every county. The 500th Wyden town meeting was held May 23 in Fossil.

Following his usual town meeting format, after being introduced by Mayor Sally Harrison, Wyden went almost immediately to taking questions from the audience. Before the first question, however, Wyden said he wanted to tell the audience the reason he pushed so hard to get FEMA to leave the trailers in place for four more months: “I want the Federal Government to know, on my watch, they aren’t going to for-

get Vernonia.” That statement was, of course, very well received and solicited a personal thank you from Vernonian Ernie Smith, who is currently living in one of the FEMA trailers.

In response to a question regarding what the citizens of Vernonia can do to help assure that stimulus dollars reach Vernonia, Wyden answered, “passing the bond measure in November, though I know people are hard-pressed, would send a great message. Whether it’s the bond measure or by some other measure, pull together to send the best possible message to show how committed the community is.”

Columbia County Commissioner Earl Fisher asked for a status on the secure rural schools funding and county payments. Wyden said that the rural schools funding has been

re-authorized for the next four years.

On budgets and federal funding in general, Wyden said that Iraq will cost this country \$2 trillion by the end and that the premise that led us there is “flawed” and that he voted against the war.

After taking comments on biomass generation, Medicare funding, and Social Security, Wyden’s final statement was, “There are a lot of people who will try to get you help. We believe passionately in what Vernonia is capable of and we’re going to prosecute the case for Vernonia until the job in Vernonia is done.”

After receiving a very warm welcome in Vernonia, Wyden left for a town hall in Forest Grove, where he faced protesters calling for a government-run health care program.

Woodland owners’ interests wanted

Owners of wooded parcels across Columbia County are encouraged to participate in a survey currently being conducted by the Oregon State University Extension Service. The purpose is to find out what woodland owners’ interests are and how OSU can best serve them.

OSU Extension Forester Amy Grotta began working in Columbia County in April 2009.

She hopes that input from local woodland owners can help her shape effective and relevant educational programs. “It’s very important for me to have input from the community,” she said. “That way, I can be sure to focus my efforts on what’s really needed. The survey will take only a few moments’ time, but the information is extremely valuable.”

See Survey, page 22

You can learn how to prevent ID theft

According to the Federal Trade Commission, ID theft affects as many as 10 million Americans each year. Wauna Federal Credit Union (WFCU) is providing members with important information about Identity Theft Prevention and How to Fight Back Against ID Theft. During the month of June, all five WFCU branches will be hosting weekly open-house events with refreshments to

help members with identity protection and financial security. There will be a new topic each week: Week 1: Credit Score Consultation, Week 2: Keeping our Children Safe, Week 3: Home Emergency Plans, Week 4: Shredding Sensitive Documents and Keeping them Safe. The event ends the month with a drawing for a document shredder and a safe. In addition

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Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays (Big Book Study)	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
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	2nd 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	9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	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	1:00 p.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	6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Tuesday	Times vary, 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.