

There are significant differences between “leadership” and “power”

King George III asked Benjamin West, his American painter, what George Washington would do if he prevailed in the Revolutionary War. West replied, “He will return to his farm.” The British monarch incredulously said, “If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world.” On December 23, 1783, Washington did just that and retired to Mount Vernon – despite the encouragement of many to stay in power. Despite the willingness of Americans to crown him king. Thirteen years later, he would do it once again.

In 1787, Washington was coaxed back to Philadelphia to attend the Constitutional Convention. While there he provided the leadership necessary to get the fractious delegates to settle down and complete the work of designing a new constitution. Afterwards, in 1789, he was elected the first President of the United States. He reluc-

tantly ran for a second term in 1792. He refused to run for a third term, setting a precedent that lasted 150 years, and retired once again to his farm.

Abraham Lincoln said, “If you want to test a man’s character – give him power.” George Washington passed that test. Twice in his life he walked away from power and proved that he was indeed the greatest man in the world. He demonstrated that leadership is something that you give – not take – and that power should be used responsibly.

Washington died in 1799, the year that Napoleon Bonaparte became the ruler of France. In contrast to Washington, Napoleon could not acquire enough power. His legendary lust for command drove him to take over much of Europe. “Power is my mistress,” he once claimed, “I have worked too hard at her conquest to allow anyone to take

her away from me.”

Years later, having lost all power and living in exile, he lamented “They wanted me to be another Washington.”

History is rife with stories of people who abused their power. Abuse of power, however, is not just reserved for politicians and tyrants. It can be abused by managers, spouses, parents, peers and the list goes on. It is the lure of dominance over others, when it motivates people toward leadership roles, that is revealing. It reveals uncertainty, lack of confidence and fear.

It is said that power corrupts, but more often than not, it is a corrupted individual who is attracted to power. It is a feeling of inferiority, sometimes called a Napoleon Complex, that drives someone to control other people and to micro-manage their surroundings. Today we call such a person a Control Freak. Science fiction author,

Robert Heinlein noted, “Anyone who wants to be a politician shouldn’t be allowed to be one.”

When we look at Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of Human Motivation (Survival, Safety, Social, Esteem, Fulfillment), we see that someone who hungers for power is stuck in the second to bottom level which is Safety. A true leader has self-esteem and self-confidence and does not seek power to bolster his or her feeling of self worth. Thomas Jefferson observed that, “An honest man can feel no pleasure in the exercise of power over his fellow citizens.”

A true leader is motivated by a goal. A goal common to his group whether that group is a company or a country. If you find yourself attracted to leadership, stop and check your motivation. Are you driven to share your gift of understanding in the endeavor of achieving a goal, or are you motivated

by perquisites of position and the power you have over others? As John Quincy Adams said, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

Jobless numbers show little change

Columbia County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 13.4 percent in October, essentially unchanged from the previous month (13.8%) and higher than the year before (7.9%). The rate was above the statewide rate (11.3%) and the national rate (10.2%). Total employment climbed by 65 to 21,518 but the number of unemployed people rose by 39 to 3,070. Total employment this October was 1,247 fewer than one year before and there were 1,252 more people unemployed this year.

Community Calendar

VERNONIA			MIST-BIRKENFELD		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street	M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays (Big Book Study)	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street	M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue	M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin	M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church	M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	6:30 p.m., City Hall	M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018	Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081	T.O.P.S.	Mondays	9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
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	BANKS		
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193	Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant	Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713	Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414	Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library	Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall	Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.	Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
Vernonia Learning Center	1st Wednesday	6:00 p.m., VLC	CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall	Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby
Vernonia Pride	2nd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall	Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center	T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	6:00 p.m., Fire Station			
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office	COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center	Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS	Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station	Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS , 2514 Sykes
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station	County Fair Board	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC	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