

# Harrison rescinds withdrawal, council okays \$1800 for K9 car upgrade

The Vernonia City Council meeting of October 4 ended with Mayor Sally Harrison reading an "Open Letter to Vernonia" in which she said, "...but I've finally made up my mind to withdraw my candidacy for Mayor." The reasons cited were a recent surgery, a broken ankle, her husband's health (her husband, Del Harrison, died later that night), and her home's elevation project.

Less than 24 hours later, she was back in the race.

On October 6, she told The Independent, "Yesterday, I received about 2,000 calls asking me to run, there seems to be a groundswell of support for me."

Extra expenditures listed on the new "Funds Verification Request" forms and approved at the September 20 and October 4 meetings included \$1,829.20 to upgrade the K-9 car equipment to automatically roll down the windows if it gets too hot in

the car, with "two independent temperature probes for built-in redundancy." The other request approved was \$3,000 for a level signal in the city water reservoir so a Public Works employee doesn't have to go to the reservoir every day to manually check the water level. Council approved this request conditionally, based on the existing phone line being able to handle the signal.

Three Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) were presented to council for approval with minor changes from IGAs they approved in April. Those and a new IGA were all between the city and the school district, and dealt with the land-swap of Spencer Park, wetlands replacement and transfer of the existing school property to the city.

Councilors asked questions about the existing IGAs that Pro-Tem City Administrator Bill

Haack said surprised him, as the questions referred to existing (not changed) language that the same council had approved in April. Council approved all four IGAs after some further discussion. Council also approved the second reading of Ordinances 868 and 869, which deal with zoning of the new schools site.

Josette Mitchell, from the Ad Hoc Budget Committee, reported to council on the 1st quarter budget. Since a quarter of the budget year is over, she reported on any budget items that were beyond 25 percent of the budgeted line item. Some variances were due to timing issues, such as the Library equipment fund, which is over 100 percent of the year's expenditure, but is for a one-time computer virus protection program. Other areas that Mitchell identified as being problems were the city hall electricity and

the city hall fire alarm contract, both will go over budget by the end of the fiscal year. At the end of the presentation, council directed Haack to work with Public Works on the Ad Hoc recommendations regarding projects to be completed.

Council approved motions suggested by the Public Works Committee to use funds from the existing sewer loan to move toward hiring a company to design the waste water treatment plant.

In other business, council; • approved Resolution 32-10 which states city support of affordable housing opportunities for persons with low, middle or fixed incomes. This resolution is necessary in order for the city to accept Community Development Block Grant funds for projects within Vernonia.

• approved a request to declare a Public Works vehicle, the Jeep Cherokee SE Sport

utility, as surplus so it can be sold.

• was told to expect to interview for a new city attorney at one of the next two council meetings.

The next council meeting will be October 18, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

## County employment numbers unchanged

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.7 percent in August, the same as the previous month but lower than the year before (13.7%). The rate was above the statewide rate (10.6%) and the national rate (9.6%). Total employment rose by 236 to 21,817 and the number of unemployed people fell by 69 to 2,781. Total employment this August was 323 more than one year before and

**See Jobless, page 5**

# 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., Library
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
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Kiwanis Club	2nd & 4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Municipal Airport Committee	1t Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
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 Garden Club	2nd Tuesday	1:30 p.m., Vernonia Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	3rd Thursday	6:30 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	10:00 a.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	Friday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesday	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	Sunday, Wednesday	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
Everybody's Hometown Band	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., BHS Music Room
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.	Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

## COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesday	10:00 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Comm Mental Health	1st Tuesday	5:30 p.m., 58646 McNulty Way
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