

Split vote will use money from already tight budget

At 6:00 p.m. on February 22, before the regular Vernonia City Council meeting began at 7:00 p.m., the council met in a third study session to determine which option to use to hire a City Administrator. The three options they discussed were; 1) Use the League of Oregon Cities' process (which costs money and was last used to hire Dick Kline), 2) self-manage the process themselves (the process used to hire Bob Young), or 3) hire current Interim City Administrator Bill Haack.

Before the council began their discussion, City Recorder Joann Glass read three letters to the council. The first was from most of the city staff in support of hiring Haack (see letter on page 2). Then a letter from Librarian Nancy Burch, in support of hiring Haack, was read. Finally, a letter from West Oregon Cooperative General

Manager Marc Farmer was read, also in support of hiring Haack.

When the council got to the decision-making process during the regular meeting, Councilors Marilyn Nicks, Kevin Hudson and Willow Burch all voted to use the League of Oregon Cities process, wanting to "see" who's out there. Councilor Randy Parrow asked council to give Haack a one-year contract and then decide. When the rest of council didn't respond to that suggestion, Parrow voted to hire Haack.

Mayor Josette Mitchell cited Shady Cove, a town of about Vernonia's size, which just used the League of Oregon Cities hiring process, got only two candidates and did not like (nor hire) either of them. Mitchell told the council this tells her that there are not candidates out there in Vernonia's salary range. Mitchell voted to

hire Haack, but the vote was three to two, so the League of Oregon Cities will be hired to run a recruitment process to hire a new city administrator.

In other business, council;

- approved the proposed sale of Spencer Park to the school district. This is another step in the process of replacing Spencer Park with property at the old schools site.

- gave consensus for the Mayor to appoint Pat Styles to the Library Board to replace Orissa Burghard.

- approved an amendment to the Youth Services Resource Officer Agreement, which will put one of Vernonia's police officers in the schools for up to 30 hours a week, for the rest of this school year. Funding is provided by the Vernonia Drug Coalition.

- Haack told council that there is a new "planner" form to be used to build agendas for

council meetings and make sure the topics are well-researched before coming to council.

- approved the second reading of Ordinance 872, which allows social gambling; such as the Lion's Club Texas Hold'em games.

- approved Resolution 06-11, amending the cemetery fees to match those the city pays.

- held the first and second reading, by title only, of Ordinance 873 which establishes an Emergency Preparedness Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The next regular council meeting is scheduled for March 7, starting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

State economy shows jobs up

Oregon State Economist Tom Potiowsky released his quarterly economic and revenue forecast February 15, showing some strong job growth in the state's service sector but including a persistent unemployment rate of 10.6 percent overall.

The outlook for state general fund revenues for the 2009-11 biennium is little changed from the last quarterly forecast. Tax collections will likely expand at a stronger rate over the next several months, as personal incomes continue to recover from the recession. Potiowsky predicted that general fund revenues for 2009-11 will be \$12.4

See Economy on page 5

Court declines to review church's appeal

From page 1
of law under the Free Exercise Clause."

church's appeal, the Supreme Court did not issue any comment on the case.

In declining to take up the

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 Tuesdays | 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 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

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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

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|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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.)

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| 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 |