

CERT grads recognized; police officer on paid administrative leave

After a short public hearing to approve the City Administrator hiring profile, the March 21 Vernonia City Council meeting next saw Interim Police Chief Mike Conner issue certificates to graduates of the recent Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Newly graduated were Mark Brown, Jackie Devine, Jessie Devine, Jerimiah Hammons, Joe Hammons, Robert Haverland, Catherine Helmer, David S. Helmer, Kevin Hudson, Andrew Johnson, Josh Leach, Chris Lindsay, Jessie Lindsay, Allen McBride, Richard Meyer, Abigail Nicks, Esther Nicks, Hannah Nicks, Marilyn Nicks, Rachel Nicks, Randall Norman, Nathan Owen, DeAnna Pearl, Taylor Smith, and Joe Suppes.

Heather Lewis read a presentation by Sharon Bernal in which Bernal encouraged council, as a whole, to become well informed on all city busi-

ness and offered the support of the Economic Development Committee.

Former Mayor Sally Harrison spoke from the floor to offer an apology to council for, "the way things happened at the last meeting."

Interim City Administrator asked for and received approval for three new city position titles, expected to be filled by interns. The title approval is the first step. Next steps will be to develop position descriptions and to review the budgetary implications during the upcoming budget process. Councilor Kevin Hudson voted nay, the rest approved the titles. However, at the April 4 meeting, Councilor Marilyn Nicks asked for this decision to be revisited and three councilors; Nicks, Hudson and Willow Burch voted not to approve the titles so they will not go to the Budget Committee for review.

The final piece of business on March 21 was a memo handed out to council by Haack saying that a Vernonia Police Officer (not named) had been placed on paid administrative leave today. The memo stated that, "the Oregon Dept. of Public Safety Standards and Training intends to conduct a policy review of a member of the Vernonia Police Department based on their investigation." The memo also stated that there would be council executive sessions (closed to the public) on March 28 and April 21, to consult with legal counsel and on records exempt from public inspection.

The April 4 council meeting started off with the appointment of Haack as the city's Budget Officer for 2011-2012. The first budget meeting is scheduled for April 9, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the VCLC.

Four members of the com-

munity; Jessie Lindsay, Jack Lindsay, Richard Meyer and Sandy Welch, spoke from the floor in support of Sergeant Mike Kay, who is currently on paid administrative leave.

Haack told council he plans to schedule a workshop or study session, in May or June, on FEMA flood compliance and code enforcement to make sure Vernonia stays eligible to buy flood insurance. Haack also plans to discuss the handling of Nuisance Abatements with council soon.

In other business, on March 21, council;

- heard that Burt Tschache resigned as Chairman of the Vernonia Community Learning Committee (VCLC).

- approved recycling some old VCLC computer components by giving them to B&B Computing, (Burt Tschache's business).

- approved Resolution 7-11

to accept and place in the Street Fund a \$25,000 ODOT stimulus funding grant.

- approved Resolution 10-11 to continue the \$12.00 fee in the water/sewer bills, in order to repay DEQ loan R93642, a 20 year \$4.3 million loan that was used to complete Phase 1 of the wastewater project.

In other business, at the April 4 meeting, council;

- approved Resolution 11-11 transferring funds in the VCLC budget in order to pay for furnace repairs.

- approved Ordinance 874, (which also repeals Ordinance 658) relating to Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention. This will allow public works to test for backflow on drinking water connections.

The next regular council meeting will be April 18, at 7:00 p.m., at city hall.

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 Tuesday	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

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