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THE INDEPENDENT

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The Vernonia 4th of July parade was, as usual, well received by a large crowd of spectators.

Council votes to fire Kay

The Vernonia City Council agenda for June 27 was short, but the meeting was long. They discussed but did not choose a new councilor.

The only other item on the agenda was an Executive Session (closed to the public) to, “consider dismissal or discipline of, or to hear charges or complaints against an officer, employee, staff member or agent.” The council went into that closed session at 6:25 p.m. Five minutes into the session, Heidi Lindsay, Vernonia Police Sergeant Mike Kay’s girl friend, knocked on the door, holding a notebook binder, and was admitted. After she left, without the binder, council continued in session until 10:45 p.m. taking one break.

council returned to open session. Councilor Randy Parrow moved to terminate the employment of Sergeant Mike Kay and to have the city attorney draw up the paperwork. After a couple of minutes of silence, Councilor Marilyn Nicks seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The termination was effective the next day, on June 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

There was a council meeting on July 5. Due to our publishing schedule, look for the report from that meeting in the July 20 issue.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for July 18, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall.

When the session was over,

Johnson and Witt to hold Town Hall

Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) and Representative Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie) will host a series of town halls in Columbia County on Sunday, July 10. Johnson and Witt will share their thoughts on the legislative session and take questions from constituents on issues of concern.

“There’s a lot to talk about this recent session and I’m interested in hearing from con-

stituents about how they think we did,” said Johnson. “We have appreciated frequent contacts with our constituents throughout the session. These town halls give us the opportunity for a face-to-face conversation about legislation initia-

See Town on page 5

Recall process starts on Burch and Nicks

Forms were filed with the City of Vernonia yesterday, July 5, to initiate a recall election of city councilors Willow Burch and Marilyn Nicks. As with the recent recall of Kevin Hudson, Sharon Bernal is listed as the chief petitioner.

Reasons listed for recalling Burch included that she:

- has created unnecessary crisis and upheaval at Vernonia’s expense,
- does not listen to the majority of the People she represents,
- created unnecessary costs to the City and caused serious loss of time on City projects, and

• is unwilling to compromise when others do not share her opinion.

Reasons given for Nicks recall included the statement that she ignored over 180 endorsements from citizens and leaders requesting that interim city administrator (Haack) be hired permanently. It continues, “You did not listen THEN and you continue not to listen...”

The filing also said that Nicks was willing to spend money on hiring a new city administrator but was, “not willing to spend any time on trying to work out your difference with people you ‘can’t communicate with’.”

This filing allows the process of collecting voter signatures to begin. If enough signatures are collected in favor of the petition, a special election will be held asking the citizens of Vernonia to vote on whether or not to recall Burch and Nicks.

The date of the election will be determined after the signatures are gathered and submitted to the Columbia County Elections Department.



Fireworks at the Vernonia 4th of July festivities lasted for about 30 minutes this year.



Vernonia band teacher, Rob Izzett, conducted a few numbers when the 204th Army Band came to town for a concert at Hawkins Park on July 2.