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For the first time since June 6, when recall efforts starting emptying seats, the Vernonia City Council has a full complement of five members. The new council is made up, left to right, of Kim Tierney, Randy Parrow, Mayor Josette Mitchell, Bruce McNair and Donna Webb. Tierney, McNair and Webb were sworn in at a special council meeting on August 29.

Vernonia has a full council once again

A panel of 15 Vernonia citizens interviewed eight candidates for Vernonia city council and recommended three to Mayor Josette Mitchell and Councilor Randy Parrow. Mitchell and Parrow were the only remaining council members after the recent recall of Kevin Hudson, Willow Burch and Marilyn Nicks.

The panel of 15 was chosen at the August 22 special council meeting. A member of the audience, Coral Pearl, selected the panel by pulling 15 names out of a basket containing the names of 29 applicants. The panel members chosen were John Agee, Sharon Bernal, Keli Crowdis, Doris Garcia, Helen Hudson, Eric Larke, Heidi Matheny, Sharon Parrow, Lorna Poetter, Ernie Smith, David Spackman, Sonia Spackman, Jannet Wageman, Philip Wageman, and Sandy Welch.

The 15 panel members interviewed eight city council applicants on August 25. The eight applicants were Noni Andersen, Brett Costley, Ilene Grady, Sally Harrison, Bruce

McNair, Victoria Peters, Kim Tierney and Donna Webb.

The panel recommended, and on August 29 existing council appointed, Bruce McNair, Kim Tierney and Donna Webb to the vacant council positions. After taking the oath of office, they were seated immediately to participate in their first meeting.

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Vernonia Town Hall on Sept. 13.

Vernonia Schools will hold a Community Town Hall on September 13, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria (green building).

Topics will include an update on the new school construction, ODOT will discuss road improvements related to the new school, and there will be discussion regarding planning for the new Spencer Park (on the existing school site) and deconstruction of the old school buildings.

Everyone is invited.

New Vernonia council says Haack is now back

At the September 6 meeting, council came out of an executive session, closed to the public, to announce that they had agreed on an employment contract with Bill Haack, who will start his employment as Vernonia's city administrator effective September 6.

On August 30, once there was a full Vernonia City Council, they lost no time getting on with city business, interviewing Dennis Rhodes and Bill Haack for the position of City Administrator. The interviews were held in executive session. When council left the executive session, they adjourned until the

August 31 special council meeting.

On August 31, council held another executive session. At the close of that session, they asked Pro Tem City Administrator Jim Johnson to "negotiate an employment agreement" with their #1 candidate.

Haack had been Pro Tem City Administrator until mid-May, when then City Councilor Willow Burch made a motion to terminate his contract, and councilors Hudson and Nicks agreed. That action triggered efforts that led to the successful recall elections of Hudson, Burch and Nicks.

Further fire restrictions in place

Warm, dry weather prompted the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to increase fire safety restrictions in the Northwest Oregon Forest Protection District, effective August 20.

ODF's Mike Simek said the decision to institute the regulated-use closure in the region was based on the "continued

See Fire on page 4



September 1 was the first day of school for Vernonia students, shown lined up here before entering Washington Grade School to start the new school year.