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THE INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26, No. 20

The Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley for Over 25 years

October 19, 2011



Fall colors are just starting to show up around Vernonia. This photo was taken earlier this week on Noakes Road.

Circuit Court announces furloughs

In light of budget limitations, it has become necessary for the Columbia County Circuit Court to reduce the hours it is open to the public. The reductions began on October 7 with the public counter being closed on Fridays. There will be a drop box for court filings and payments which will be picked up at 5:00 p.m. Any documents in the box before 5:00 p.m. will be file stamped with the current date. The courtrooms will be open for business as usual.

The Columbia County Circuit Court staff deeply regrets

any inconvenience this may cause. Friday closures will be in effect through June 30, 2013.

In addition to the Friday counter closure, the Chief Justice has signed an order mandating full court closure for nine calendar days: November 25, 2011, March 23, 2012, May 25, 2012, August 17, 2012, October 19, 2012, November 23, 2012, January 18, 2013, April 19, 2013, and May 24, 2013. Staff will be furloughed during these dates but the judges will be holding pretrials and nonof-

ficial meetings in chambers.

“Occupy” idea spreads in Oregon

by Chris Thomas, Oregon News Service

Frustrated folks in at least a half-dozen Oregon cities are part of the “99 Percent” or “Occupy Together” protests that have sprung up across the nation to protest corporate greed and government inaction. Some of the gatherings started last week and are still going on, but those who are not part of the protests may wonder what

good they will do.

At the Portland “Occupy” event, Kari Koch says the scene may look a little disorganized, but the groups in each city are agreeing on goals and actions and have a clear vision of what needs to be changed, “The economic and political system is not working for working people. It is, in fact, collapsing on top of the working class,

See “Occupy” on page 22



Don Tiffney of Vernonia caught this 40 lb. Salmon on a recent fishing trip to Youngs Bay he took with Don Webb, also of Vernonia.

Candidates for District 1 give views during forum

“A Kitchen Table Conversation: Voices of Rural Oregon” was the name of a candidate forum held October 11 in Scappoose.

Four candidates, all 11 were invited, for the Congressional District 1 position opened up by David Wu’s resignation, participated in the “Conversation”. The questions and each candidate’s answer are given below. Other candidates will be contacted before the next issue with the opportunity to answer the same questions. Ballots for the election will be mailed out starting October 21 for the November 8 Primary Election. The Special General Election will be held January 31 to fill the position.

The four candidates at the Scappoose forum were Brad Avakian, Suzanne Bonamici, Delinda Delgado-Morgan and Brad Witt. Avakian is currently the Oregon Labor Commissioner. He also served three terms in the Oregon Legislature, representing Beaverton and NW Portland. Bonamici is

State Senator for 17th District. Delgado-Morgan is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 701. She and her family also own Morgan Meadows Vineyard in Gaston. Witt is currently State Representative from the 31st District and was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO for 14 years.

The “Conversation” was organized by Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity (CCCHD), the Rural Organizing Project (ROP), Working Families, MoveOn.org, and Rebuild the Dream.

See Candidates on page 5

Town Hall on New Park

The Vernonia School District will hold a Town Hall to get community input for the New Spencer Park project to replace the existing schools. The Town Hall will be tomorrow, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria building.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES MONDAY, OCT. 31

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE — The Vernonia Costume Sidewalk Parade will take place on Halloween, starting at Vernonia City Hall. Meet there at 4:00 p.m. to start the parade at 4:30 p.m. The parade route (and trick-or-treat to businesses) starts from City Hall, going first to the Library, down Bridge St. (with detour to Sentry) to Shay Park, crosses the street at Adams Ave. and returns to City Hall via the other side of the street.

All children up to 10 years of age and their parents are welcome.

TRICK OR TREAT AT CHURCH — Come start your Halloween Trick or Treating at Vernonia Community Church with free hot dogs, chips and drinks on October 31 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

FALL CARNIVAL — Join the fun at the 25th anniversary of the Fall Carnival at Vernonia Christian Church!

A safe Halloween alternative at 410 North St. on Monday, October 31, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. There will be games, prizes, goodies and more! It’s free family fun for everyone!

For more information call the church office at 503-429-6522.