

Economic Development Committee persons all quit

Michael Calhoun spoke to the Vernonia City Council at their July 2 meeting, to tell them he is applying for Vernonia to become a Tree City USA through the Arbor Day Foundation. Calhoun told council that he is soliciting for members of a tree board and that board plus an city tree ordinance will be needed for this project to get started.

The Mayor accepted a letter of resignation from all five members of the city's Economic Development Committee, which effectively ends this committee. No reason was given in the letter for disbanding the committee, though the committee's June 19 minutes "cited a lack of time for the periodic, long term commitment".

Police Chief Michael Conner provided the council with charts, plus all citizen comments, of the police survey that

was in the April water bill to all households. Conner has not yet evaluated the results for any possible changes, but will be looking at that next. 122 surveys were returned to the city of the 800 sent out.

City Administrator Bill Haack told council that he has hired a temporary grounds maintenance person for the next two months. The hiring process for this part-time contract position is currently starting. The temporary person replaced an employee who was recently terminated.

Council approved Resolution 26-12, the formal paperwork needed to establish an Airport Committee under the changes recently implemented for size and organization of city committees.

The Master Fee Schedule was updated by council's approval of Resolution 27-12

which included the new water rates that went into effect in June and were reflected in the bill the city sent out dated June 26.

After an executive session (closed to the public) to "conduct deliberations with persons designated to carry on labor negotiations", the council re-

turned to open session. Councilor Webb made moved to adopt the Vernonia Police Association agreement as presented in executive session. Council unanimously agreed.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for July 16, at 7:00 p.m., at city hall.

Top 10 consumer complaint list

According to the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) the Top 10 Consumer Complaints for 2011 include telemarketing calls, telecommunications, international money transfer scams, financial services, homeownership issues, collection agencies, motor vehicle sales, internet sales, health products, and auto repair companies.

Every day the Department's Consumer Protection Section

helps consumers who have lost money due to fraudulent and deceptive business practices. In 2011 the Department received nearly 12,500 written complaints alleging fraud in the marketplace and helped consumers recover \$2,720,931. The Attorney General's Consumer Hotline, at 1-877-877-9392, is staffed by a team of volunteers who fielded 37,467 calls in 2011.

Because of increasing fraud

and scams throughout Oregon, DOJ has unveiled a completely redesigned and updated consumer protection website featuring videos, smart consumer tips and how-tos for exercising consumer rights. The site is available at www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov/consumer.

The Department's online complaint research database, Be InfORmed, allows users to conduct business searches by zip code or geographical area. Be InfORmed can be found at <https://justice.oregon.gov/complaints/>.

Below are some highlights from the Top 10 Consumer Complaint List for 2011.

Telemarketing – This is the first time in five years that an industry other than telecommunications ranked #1 on Oregon's Top 10 Consumer Complaint List. With 1,341 written complaints, Oregon consumers want to silence a recent surge in unwanted telemarketing

See Top on page 5

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., WGS 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
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
Emerg. Preparedness Comm.	4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., WOEC
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
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Grange
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 Comm. Learning Center	1st Wednesday	5:00 p.m., VCLC
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 Library Board	1st Wednesday	9:00 a.m., Sept-June, Library
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	6:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 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.	3rd 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

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	7:00 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 9-1-1 Board	3rd Thursday	9:00 a.m., 9-1-1 meeting room
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	2nd Thursday	4:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
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

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.