

ERA okays retail expansion plan

A retail expansion plan was given the go-ahead by the Eugene Renewal Agency (ERA) during their regular meeting Monday.

The plan was approved after a California development firm was authorized by the agency to act as the sole negotiating agent for the city to secure tenant commitments from major retailers.

Although a contract between the Agency and the John S. Griffith Co., of Irvine, Cal., has yet to be signed, the agency hopes to

attract at least three major retail firms to the downtown area.

"During the next three or four months, the Griffith company will be talking to retailers about the development plans," Charles Kupper, executive director of the ERA, said.

"If each of the sequence steps toward the development goes well, ground breaking could take place within two years."

The expansion plans include a new

shopping center with at least two new department stores, restaurants and smaller shops. The plan also will include two five-level parking lots to accommodate nearly 2,000 cars.

The project will mean the expansion of the existing mall by nearly 400,000 square feet, double the size of the present retail space.

The Griffith company may build and finance its own enclosed mall within the downtown area if it can get commitments

from major retail firms, the company president told ERA members.

The company may also sponsor cultural events and entertainment in the mall area to attract shoppers during the evening hours.

An enclosed mall with several shops would be necessary to attract major retailers, company representatives said last week. The center, if completed according to plan, would extend from the western edge of the Bon Marche store to the corner of 11th Avenue and Willamette Street.

Coast Guard cleans up, investigates spill

ASTORIA (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard started cleanup operations Tuesday on an oil spill on the Lower Columbia River, and an official said five ships were being investigated for having caused it.

The spill was reported shortly before 7 a.m. yesterday by a ship moving upriver. It was described at that time as one-half mile wide and three miles long, about 25 miles upstream from Astoria, near the Washington shore.

Cmdr. Stanley Burgess, Coast Guard environmental protection officer in Portland, said an investigating helicopter estimated the spill at no more than 300 gallons. Since the source of the pollution was not known, the Coast Guard hired a cleanup contractor and sent Coast Guard boats and a containment boom to the scene.

Burgess said the oil was described as black, weathered and non-sticky, which probably came from a vessel moving up or down the river. He said five suspect vessels were under investigation.

Burgess said it was expected the oil not cleaned up would disperse and be washed to sea on an outgoing tide.

The spill was first observed in the vicinity of Skamokawa, Wash. Burgess said the Washington Department of Ecology was concerned about waterfowl, as the oil seemed to be heading around Harrington Point toward some mudflats and grasslands.

Evel Knievel toys no longer ideal

NEW YORK (AP) — The Ideal Toy Corp. is removing stunt motorcycles and other toys that bear Evel Knievel's name from the U.S. market because of his conviction last year for beating his publicist.

"Based on what happened last fall, there's no reason to continue production," Zeke Rose, a company spokesman, said Tuesday.

Knievel, 38, is serving a six-

month sentence in Santa Monica, Calif., for beating his former press agent, Sheldon Saltman, with a baseball bat. He is to be released on probation in about one month.

When Ideal first considered the question of discontinuing the marketing of Knievel toys Rose said, "The company recognizes that it sells its products to children and that it has a responsibility to the children and their parents."

Rose said Tuesday the firm plans to continue to sell the toys, which include a stunt motorcycle that does flips and a canyon sky cycle, in Germany and the United Kingdom. He said European sales represent "a very small proportion" of total sales.

He could not say whether Ideal will market the Knievel toys in this country in the future. He said late last year, however, that sales in

1977 were not as good as they had been.

A licensing contract that permits Ideal to use Knievel's name in exchange for a royalty fee "remains unchanged," Rose said.

The Knievel toys netted the company \$100 million in the last five years and were "terrific sellers" in the past, Rose said. He said Knievel received between 2.5 percent and 10 percent of sales on the toys.

TDA balloons get response

EUGENE, (AP) — The Trojan Decommissioning Alliance has received 12 cards mailed back since it released 1,000 balloons from near the Trojan nuclear plant at Rainier, Ore., March 17.

So far, the distance record is from Protivin, Iowa. A balloon was seen landing in a field near Protivin about 4 o'clock the afternoon of March 18th. It had traveled more than 2,000 miles in slightly more than 24 hours.

The balloons were released as part of a state-wide protest against refueling of the Trojan plant. Each balloon carried a card reading:

"This card was released from the site of the Trojan nuclear power plant at Rainier, Oregon. If it reached you, so can airborne radiation."

Co-directors selected

Nancy Lange and Dan Van Camp have been selected as co-directors of the children's program for the second annual Family Vacation College at the University. They will be in charge of developing the children's activities taking place during the Family Vacation College of campus on July 16 to 21.

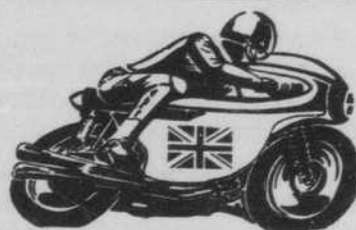
Activities will range from arts and crafts to aquatics and from backpacking to baseball. Morning, afternoon and evening activities, offered in a "camp-like" atmosphere, will be available to pre-schoolers, pre-teens and teens.

Last year, 15 children participated in the program. Both new co-directors will receive their BS degree in recreation and park management from the University this year. They will earn college credit for directing the children's program.

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