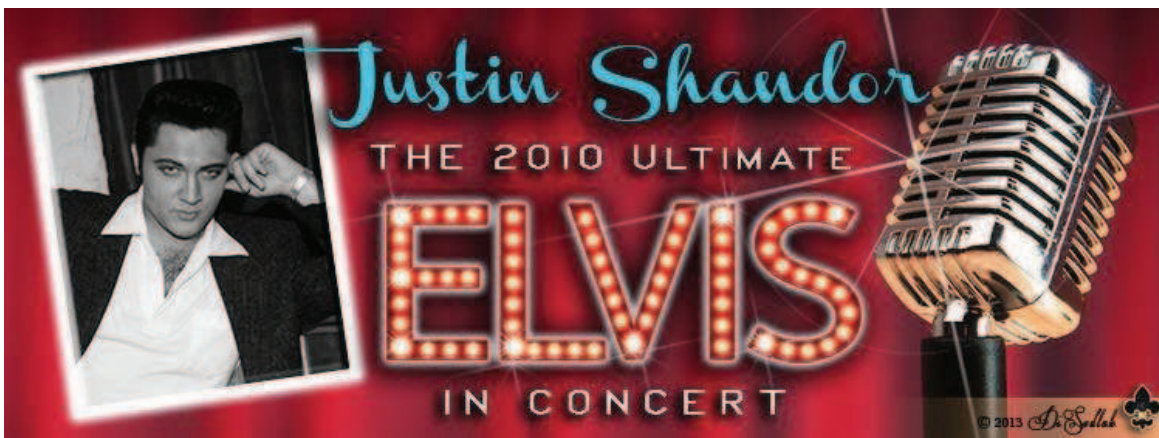


Elvis Will Be in the New School Building!

Elvis is coming to Vernonia!

The "Give Back Bash" is an event to raise funds for athletic facilities for the new Vernonia School campus. It will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2013, and will be one of the headline events of the "57th Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show" weekend. The "Give Back Bash" will feature two concert performances by Justin Shandor, a world renowned Elvis Tribute Artist.

The "Give Back Bash" is being organized by the Vernonia High School Alumni of 1973. Following the evening performance by Shandor, the Class of '73 invites all VHS alumni to an all-class reunion in the Commons. Tours of the new school building will be available. There will also be raffles and a 50/50 drawing at the concerts. Donated items so far include 4 handmade quilts, a Beach House Rental, Gift Cards, a Golf Package, handmade art and



Shandor was named "The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist" by Elvis Presley Enterprises in 2010 and recently thrilled a national television audience with his performance on the David Letterman Show on February 6, 2013. Known for his remarkable physical resemblance to the King (Graceland once sent Shandor a letter asking him to stop using Elvis's image in his promotional materials; the image was actually of Shandor!) and his amazing voice and dance moves, Shandor will perform with a full eight piece band for his shows in Vernonia.

Shandor's shows are scheduled for 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM in the Common of the Vernonia School, 1000 Missouri Avenue. The early show will feature early Elvis music from the 50's and 60's; the evening performance showcases Elvis's music from the 70's. Doors open one hour before show time.

jewelry and more!

Preshow tickets, starting at \$15, are recommended and available on line at www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/294028 or by calling 800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door, cash is encouraged.

CC Rider Contracts with First Transit

CC Rider Transportation announced its partnership with First Transit, a leading provider of transit management and contracting solutions. First Transit will begin managing driver operations of the county's fixed route and dial-a-ride services on July 1, 2013, and aims to bring attention to customer service, system development and the overall CC Rider experience, particularly in light of the recent service reductions that took effect on April 1, 2013.

First Transit's onsite Manager Joshua Fully commented, "First Transit looks forward to working with Columbia County staff as a partner in providing quality public transit services. We keep our customers at the heart of everything we do and are honored to provide service to the citizens of Columbia County." First Transit looks forward to fulfilling the high standards of safety and service that Columbia County residents expect and deserve.

First Transit was chosen as a result of a competitive

purchasing process that began in March of this year. "Of the three proposals received, First Transit stood out, and their work with other agencies in Oregon was exemplary. They bring a lot of experience to the table and our system can benefit from that experience," said Janet Wright, the county's Transit Director.

First Transit, Inc. - a division of Cincinnati, Ohio-based FirstGroup America - is a leading provider of transit management and contracting services. With more than 50 years of experience, First Transit operates and manages nearly 11,000 buses for transit authorities, state and federal agencies, municipal organizations, colleges and universities, and private companies across North America. For more information, visit www.firsttransit.com or follow the company on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FirstGrpAmerica>.

For additional information please contact Janet Wright, Transit Director at 503-366-8504 or go to www.columbia-countyrider.com

Voices From the Crowd: What I've Learned in Six Years as a WOEC Director

By Bob Paleck

This article is a personal effort by me alone to truthfully clarify and inform you about what I think may not be understood or appreciated by many WOEC members. No other member of the Board, staff or any employee is responsible for its content. The other Board members approved my request to write before I started it. This courtesy was granted since I'm one of the Board whose term expires in August and there are innuendoes and rumors circulating that need to be cleared up.

Normally the Board of Directors depend on our General Manager, Marc Farmer, or a senior member of the staff responsible for a portion of the co-op's activities to act as WOEC spokesperson for all information provided to the public in general and our membership in particular. Why? Because they are the professional, contracted and paid individuals employed to execute democratically decided and agreed upon plans, policies, rules, regulations and bylaws.

We, the Board, are the members' representatives and the staff works for all of us. We are a cooperative. The fundamental precept is to cooperate. In part that means that the Board recognizes that the professionals do their job

best when we don't duplicate their efforts. We don't work for you, they do. We are your elected representatives; you don't employ us. We accept the challenge and, to the best of our collective abilities, act on your behalf. We ask for information, examine the facts and make decisions based on the combined desires, opinions, needs and requirements - not of any one individual, faction, district or even our individual selves - but the entire 4,000 plus membership.

If you attend a monthly business meeting of the co-op (one other than the August Annual meeting), you will observe that even though the actions taken by the Board are most times a consequence of unanimous agreement, often they are arrived at only after pro and con discussion and deliberation. Even when agreement is not unanimous, the results are uniformly represented and enforced - we are a group with no appreciation much less tolerance for dissension once an agenda item is decided. As circumstances change and the business of the co-op is conducted over monthly, annual, triennial and other cycles, subjects are reviewed and the resulting actions taken may be continued if warranted or modified or reversed as circumstances and specifics of our current situation dictate a change. Cooperation is the foundation to our existence, but consideration of mem-

ber resources and how to sustain the efficient, reliable delivery of electric power at the lowest cost drives our decisions. WOEC is a registered Not-For-Profit, membership owned entity. The Board and employees never forget that we are spending other peoples' money.

I think that the last topic is a fundamental reason why we, the Board, have for some time and seemingly continue to be at odds with a small but vocal number of our membership (largely in the Vernonia environs) that has published their intention to (my words here) 'take over and fix' WOEC even if it takes three years to do so by electing new Board members as the terms of the present incumbents expire. When the same questions are asked or explanations are requested and then answers are provided, over and over and over and over - yes, at least four times - it seems to me that the questioners either are not listening or aren't really looking for answers and information. Instead it appears that the whole exercise is an effort to instigate and then perpetuate an argument. This was especially true when the questioners resorted to name calling after about the third time that the answers were provided; as in characterizing the Board members as being either lazy, stupid or dishonest as documented in a letter to the Oregon

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