

Eclipse warnings

The upcoming eclipse of the sun on February 26, 1979 is one of nature's great wonders. For most of us, this is a once in a life time occurrence and naturally has gained our attention. It is a very natural feeling to want to gaze at the phenomenon. However, to gaze at the eclipse, even for a split second, could produce irreversible damage to the very sensitive retina of the eye.

During an eclipse the moon passes between the sun and the earth. As this occurs more and more of the sun's rays are blocked from reaching the earth and daylight gradually decreases. When this darkness occurs, the pupil of the eye becomes larger. If someone were to look directly at the sun an even greater amount of damaging rays could focus on the retina and cause irreparable damage because of the larger pupil size.

The eye also acts like a magnifier. The rays from the sun are brought to a focus on the retina similar to the way a magnifier focuses the sun onto a piece of paper. The damage is done very quickly, without pain, but the area of the retina with the most critical vision has been lost.

The American Optometric Association urges all parents to closely watch their youngsters during this period of time. Encourage them to stay inside, and watch the eclipse on television.

If you can supervise them in the construction of a sunscope, this is a safe way to watch the eclipse indirectly. Again, however, please do not let your child be unsupervised while using the sunscope or during the duration of the eclipse.

Hearing being held on disposal sites increases

One week from today on Feb 28, a hearing will be held at the County Board of Commissioners meeting regarding rate increases for County disposal sites. The sites effected will be the Santosh Disposal site, the Rolf Larson drop box service and Stan McCambridge service.

The proposed increases are at Santosh: loose drop boxes, increase from .65¢ to .75¢ per cu. yd.; compacted garbage from \$1.05 to \$1.15 per cu. yd.; rough stuff to be \$2.50 per cu. yd.; demolition, \$1.15 per cu. yd.; brush, \$1.50 per cu. yd. and individual cars, pickups and trailers, increase from \$1.25 minimum to \$1.50 minimum for up to 1.5 cu. yd.

Rolf Larson: base price for 30 yard box from \$51 to \$62; base price for 20 yard box from \$41 to \$50.

Stan McCambridge: .25¢ per can increase; \$1.00 per container per month increase.

A look at Vernonia City Budget

by Ned Mawhirter

Next Monday the 26th will be the hearing on the Vernonia City Budget. Vernonia has not had a city budget passed in the last several years and this year's budget is bigger than ever. After that hearing the budget that will be voted on April 3. If the people of Vernonia want to vote in a budget it would be wise to take your ideas to the hearing and see that a budget is voted on that reflects the will of the people and might stand a chance of passing.

To clarify the confusing figures somewhat: the total proposed budget for next year is \$824,621.50 compared to the actual budget this year of 724,200.06. Of that \$229,198.00 is the proposed property tax levy is 229,198.00 in order to collect an actual \$189,948.00 in tax revenues after discounts and taxes not paid. This year the total levy was \$72,794.00. A significant difference that is largely due to the lack of federal funds that will not be available next year.

Of the \$229,198.00 tax levy \$20,760.00 is for the payment of bonded debt and \$39,612.00 is within the tax base. The other \$168,826.00 outside the 6% limitation and must be voted on.

In this year's budget you will notice there was \$0 from outside the 6% limitation because the tax levy was defeated last year. The \$168,826.00 special levy represents 74% of the proposed total tax levy and 20% of the total proposed budget.

What this means in terms of taxes is that your property taxes for the City of Vernonia last year were \$4.69 per thousand dollars of evaluation. If the proposed levy were approved your taxes will be \$12.73 per thousand for the City of Vernonia for next year.

The biggest jump in a single fund is in the police budget that is \$91,116. up from \$53,443. The police are losing federal funding for the station secretary which is \$12,920 plus are requesting an additional officer and the addition of another patrol car. The General operations fund is close on the police's heels, \$81,969. up from \$47,870. Here again federal funding is lost and personnel costs are inflating and the City attorney's fees are \$4,200 up from \$3,000. and the contingency fund is up \$11,000. from \$6,000.

Buildings and Grounds fund is also up \$14,275 from \$7,650 due to loss of federal funds and allowance for heating bill of \$5,000 rather than the \$3,000. for this year. The Fire Dept. fund is also up \$28,280. from \$13,050. You guessed it, federal funding of personnel.

Other depts. show only expected inflation. Study your City Budget and see if you don't have some ideas about it.

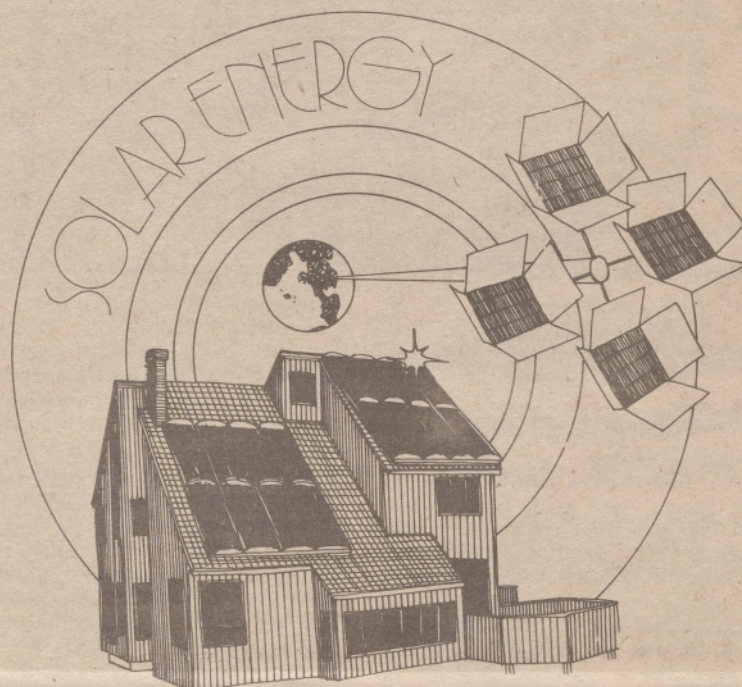
School Board posts still open

Filing for the two school board positions that will be voted on April 3 is Next Tuesday Feb.

As of last Friday incumbent Lea Ann Berg is the only known candidate.

Any one interested in running for the school board positions should contact the School district office or the County Clerk's office.

Again that deadline is next Tuesday.



Attorney Dean Alexander

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for appointment
429-5061 Vernonia
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