

City changes license fees

Acting on Planning Commission recommendations, the Vernonia City Council, at their May 18 meeting, decided to eliminate the city's lowest priced business license and require a \$30 fee for all business licenses, regardless of the dollar volume of business done.

Eliminated was the \$6 fee previously applied to businesses grossing \$10,000 or less. A fee of \$3 for each employee still applies, excepting the first two employees.

The new rates will be effective at the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1, 1987.

Superintendent of Public Works Mike Smith presented a list of four streets that may carry enough traffic to qualify for repairs under a state grant. The council decided that Bridge Street from the bottom of Corey Hill to Lincoln School should be given priority. If the street is selected the city will be granted \$25,000 for repairs.

Mayor Vaughn reported that he, Smith, and several others attended a meeting with the Department of Environmental Quality where they urged the DEQ to place the city higher on the list of priorities for sewer repair or replacement because of the city's repeated discharge of raw sewage into the Nehalem River during times of heavy water run-off.

New appointments to the Airport Committee were made by Mayor Vaughn. They are: Ted Druer, Michael Johansen, Michael Seager, Scott Sword and Frank Enyart.

The council also approved formation of a Library Board.



Building recently purchased by the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce can now be seen since the removal of weeds and tree limbs, and mowing of foot high grass. Chamber vice-presidents Kelly Smith and Dirk Andersen did the job on a Sunday afternoon.

Group will explore county economics

The newly formed Columbia County Economic Development Council (CCEDC) has announced the start of a countywide economic development program, "Columbia 2000 - A Focus For the Future."

Town Hall meetings will be the thrust of Columbia 2000, which will result in the development of a county economic development strategy.

CCEDC President Paul Pulliam says Columbia 2000 has three main goals. "We want to thoroughly assess

community needs, coordinate countywide economic development planning, and develop a regional economic development proposal for the governor," Pulliam says.

"The bottom line, is to coordinate our economic development efforts in order to create jobs and help businesses in this area grow," Pulliam says.

The Vernonia meeting, which will include Mist & Birkenfeld, will be held Tuesday, June 16, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in the Washington Grade School cafeteria. The school is located on Bridge Street.

"Everyone in the community is invited," says Patricia Ray, organizer of the meeting. "We want to know what ideas and suggestions people have to improve our business climate."

For further details on meeting times and locations, call Carol Vowell, 397-4896, or Patricia Ray, 429-6271.

County sets budget hearing in Vernonia

A public hearing on the 1987-88 Columbia County budget will be held in Vernonia on Wednesday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the city library. All interested citizens are invited to attend and ask questions of the county commissioners regarding the budget.

Budget hearings will also be held at Clatskanie City Hall, 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8, and in St. Helens on the 10th, in the Courthouse conference room at 10 a.m.

Chamber provides trash receptacles

Eight new trash receptacles have been placed around town, courtesy of the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce. The receptacles were designed by Boyd Ruby, and were built and installed by Ruby and chamber president Fred Klinger.

Business Notes

THIS-N-THAT has moved from the Joy Theater building to quarters next to the laundromat. Only the address is changed, Kathy Wolfe says; the high quality of service and merchandise is the same.

WADDELL & REED FINANCIAL SERVICES, provided locally by Tom Strand, will be moving into the Joy Theater building, in the space vacated by This-N-That, soon. Strand will expand his services to include insurance.

VERNONIA CAFE is an experienced restaurant in an experienced building, as Sally Marion, formerly of Marsallees, buys a business formerly known as Nancy's from Nancy Merriman. The grand opening will be on May 30-31. See her grand opening ad in this paper.

COAST PURE WATER's Fred Klinger announces a new distributorship. He will sell the Ritchie Fountain, a fully automated livestock watering tank.

Kuhn appointed to fair board

Mark "Buck" Kuhn, Warren has been appointed to the Columbia County Fair Board by the county Board of Commissioners. A professional auctioneer, Kuhn will join Norm Hansen of Mist, Kenneth Brien of Rainier, Jack Tate of Scappoose, and chairman John Odenthal, Warren, on the fair board.

Projects currently underway at the fairgrounds include construction of a baseball field by the St. Helens Little League, the

building of a museum, by county Granges, for antique farm equipment, and construction of a new goat barn by county 4-H Club members.

In addition, the Master Gardeners are planting an experimental garden which will feature unusual vegetables and other plants that aren't generally grown in home gardens.

Volunteers working on these projects are trying to complete them all for the 1987 Columbia County Fair, July 22-25.

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