

Business Notes

Volunteers being sought for county panels

Columbia County is soliciting applicants for two important county advisory panels. One person is needed to serve on the Charter Review Committee, the other will serve on the Planning Commission.

The Charter Review Committee will analyze the current form of government of Columbia County to determine the most appropriate structure for the future. The committee intends to make the appointment at their meeting on July 13. The application

must be returned by June 30, 1995.

The Planning Commission reviews land use issues. No appointment date was announced.

Anyone interested should obtain an application from the office of the Board of Commissioners office, Room 331, County Courthouse, St. Helens, 97051.

Call the Board of Commissioners office at (503) 397-4322 for an application or for more information.

Review of water charges planned

It may be a wet year, but the Vernonia City Council is concerned about the cost of water and, last week, after granting the second adjustment in two months for a broken lateral on private property, the council decided to review city ordinances controlling water rates.

By averaging the water bills for users whose pipes have broken, instead of charging the full amount, the city has lost over \$100 on the two adjustments.

Also to undergo review will be the city's practice of providing water to churches without charge. Mayor Tony Hyde noted that two local churches operate tuition-based schools; he expressed concern about whether they should be considered commercial enterprises. Additionally, city attorney Tom Kohl advised the council that they may be violating the Constitution by providing free water to churches.

The council accepted an inventory of downtown sidewalk conditions that included conditions ranging in severity from cracks to unevenness to badly broken. Almost every property in the city's commercial core was on the list, except those where sidewalks have been replaced within the past few years. The inventory was prepared by Vernonia Pride; it will be reviewed by the public works department.

Work will start soon on

sidewalks in front of Vernonia School District office, Vernonia High School and Washington Grade School. The successful bidder for the job was Gary Hanson, a contractor from Gearhart.

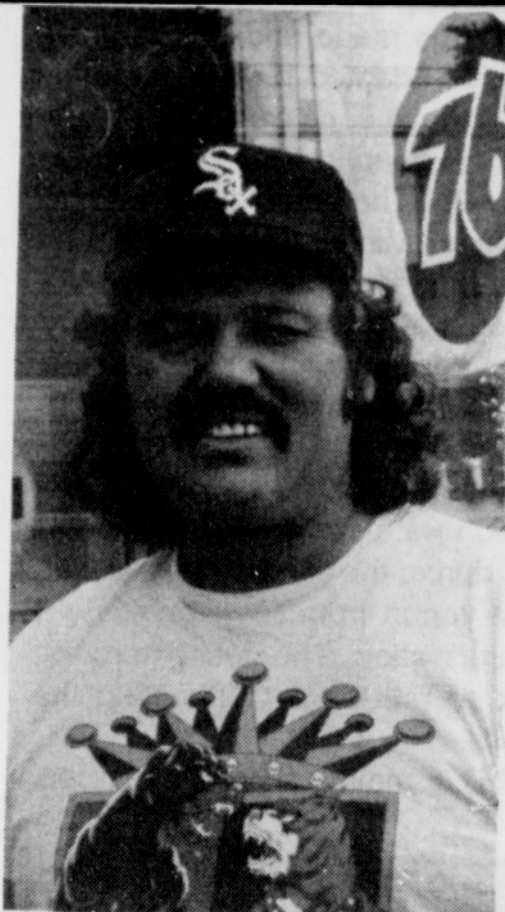
Minor injuries in car/truck wreck

No one was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident last Friday between a car and a log truck, on Hwy. 47 about three miles south of Vernonia.

According to Oregon State Police, Erica Solberg (also known as Johansen), 17, Vernonia, was driving southbound in a 1990 Ford Thunderbird. As she glanced backward at her infant in the back seat, the car swerved across the dividing line into the path of a northbound Kenworth log truck driven by Wendy Wilcoxen, 33, of Clatskanie.

As Solberg attempted to get back in the right-hand lane, she clipped the front end of the truck, lost control of the vehicle and landed in a ditch. Wilcoxen tried to stop her fully-loaded truck, causing it to flip over.

Solberg was cited for driving without an operator's license, driving uninsured and careless driving.



Tom Carlile

COLCO increases ridership and vans

Columbia County Transportation (COLCO), with 25 vehicles, is now the largest Section-18 transit agency providing transportation to the general public in areas with less than 50,000 population. It ranks 117th out of the 1,162 rural providers nation wide, including Alaska and Hawaii.

COLCO operates Dial-A-Ride service throughout Columbia County. To augment that service, the transportation agency has applied for federal and state grants to operate fixed-route service from Clatskanie to Longview, Wash., with a stop in Rainier, and fixed-route service along Hwy. 30 from Clatskanie to St. Helens.

In an average year COLCO Transportation will provide over 130,000 low cost rides to county residents. More than 50 percent of the small buses, vans and minivans used by the rural transit system are equipped with wheelchair lifts for the convenience of the county's disabled population. The system plans to equip all of its vehicles with wheelchair lifts within four years.

Carlile now manages Vernonia 76

In a move designed to upgrade the quality of service and increase the volume of gasoline pumped at the Vernonia 76 service station, owner Bretthauer Oil Co. has shuffled the deck, designating Tom Carlile as manager of the gas station and sub-leasing the garage bay to former manager Skee Cluver, who will continue to operate his auto repair business. Cluver will also handle oil changes and lube jobs.

Carlile will devote his energy to increase the station's profitability. It will continue to offer full service station, delivered with a smile, Carlile said. Gasoline prices have been adjusted downward to

be more competitive and he may also expand the business by adding a stock of canned and bulk oils.

Credit accounts will be replaced by a policy requiring either cash or credit card purchases.

Norm Warwick will assist Tom in keeping the station open seven days a week. Monday thru Friday hours will be from 6-6pm; Saturday, from 8-6pm and Sunday, 9-4pm.

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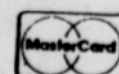
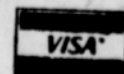
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