

Josi says "No" to Hawaii, seeks seat

After District 2 State Rep. Tim Josi resigned from the legislature to take a job in Hawaii, he returned in less than a week.

"I didn't know what I was giving up!" Josi said. Now he's facing the task of trying to be appointed to fill the remainder of his own term.

Admitting that fatigue from the recent, acrimonious legislative session was a factor in his decision-making process,

Josi said it didn't take him long to realize that Hawaii was a nice place to vacation, but he doesn't want to live there or raise his family there.

"It really taught me how precious Oregon is," Josi said.

A 1991 state law says a resignation becomes effective unless it is rescinded within three days from the time it is

written. Though Josi was gone less than a week and hadn't established residency in Hawaii, his resignation was written well before the time it was to take effect.

A joint meeting of Democratic Central Committee delegates from Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia and Washington Counties will be held Sept. 9 to select candidates for the appointment.

Smith appointed to Hugo's seat

Carole Smith will be sworn in tomorrow as the newest member of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, to replace Bruce Hugo who was recalled in an election on July 11. She was nominated by Commissioner Joel Yarbor and elected by Yarbor and Commissioner Bill McDonald.

Smith worked for the State of Oregon from 1972 to 1993 and was working for the Sis-

ters of Providence Health Care Systems at the time of her appointment. She and her husband, District Court Judge Berkeley Smith, live in Columbia City.

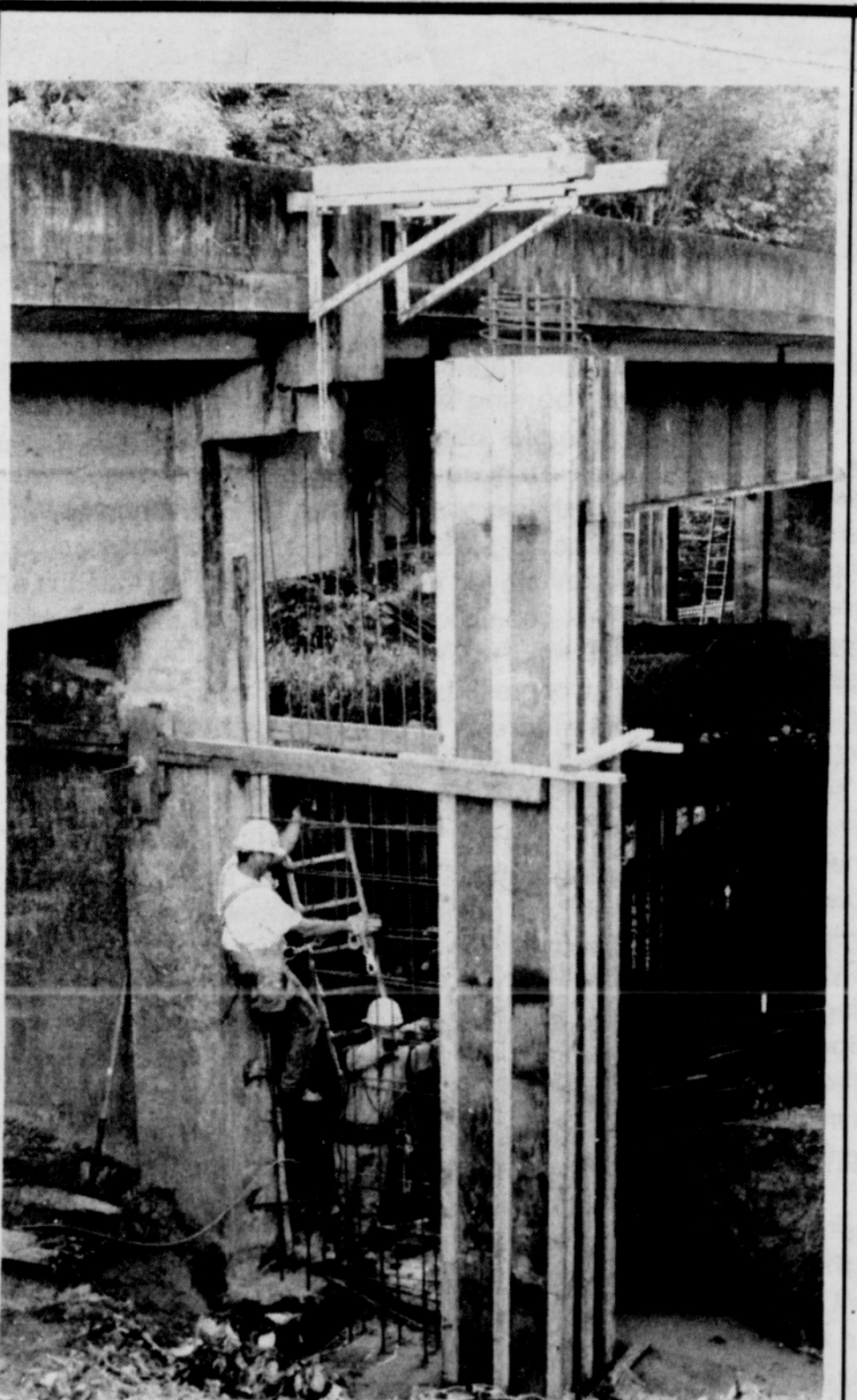
Smith was one of three nominees sent to the board by the county Democratic Central Committee. The other nominees were state Rep. Tony Federici and Anya Spielberg, both of St. Helens.



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Construction workers install structural steel for new cement columns on both sides of the Hwy. 47 bridge crossing the Nehalem River two miles south of Vernonia. When the work is complete, the bridge will be widened by 16 feet.

Ethics panel looking at Sykes

Former Columbia County Commissioner Michael Sykes is under preliminary review by the Government Standards and Practices Commission (commonly called the ethics committee) to determine if he used his public office for personal gain.

Though the GSPC will not comment on who brought the allegations against Sykes or what they are, a source close to the investigation said that Naomi Bond, a state court clerk, charged that Sykes, while still a commissioner, used \$400,000 of county road department funds to secure his present job as assistant director of the Port of St. Helens.

The charge refers to a decision by Sykes and Commissioner Joel Yarbor to earmark that amount of the road department budget for improvements to Dike Road in Rainier if a proposed steel mill development is built there. County-owned Dike Road goes through property owned by the Port of St. Helens which has been proposed for the mill. The third commissioner at that time, Bruce Hugo, was not in attendance at the meeting when the decision was made.

"I am amazed that my decision to support improvements to roads in West Rainier" is the basis of a complaint, Sykes said. "I voted in favor of a decision that prioritized county funds to fix county roads, to help attract a \$210 million project that will create over 220 jobs that pay annual salaries in the \$40,000 range."

Sykes was the commissioner responsible for roads at that time and said he supported the Dike Road project as well as improvements to Old Portland Road in Scappoose, where Fred Meyer will be locating.

"Between these two projects, 520 jobs will be created," Sykes said. "The (Rainier) project involves the City of Rainier, Columbia County and the State of Oregon, as well as the Port." He added that the state has committed \$500,000 to help with the necessary road improvements.

"If given the same circum-

stances, I would make the same decision," Sykes said, "Political sour grapes is the real issue here, not my ethics."

Bond was a member of the committee that supported Hugo in his losing battle to avoid being recalled by the voters after admitting he used a county credit card to illegally obtain cash for use in poker machines.

Hugo is now under formal investigation by the ethics committee, following his guilty plea to charges of theft and official misconduct.

Violations of state ethics rules are punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000 per violation and up to twice the amount of financial gain, if it is determined that an official used his office for personal gain.

The panel has until mid-October to complete its preliminary review of the charges against Sykes. The formal investigation of Hugo must be completed by early December.



New Vernonia Police Officers Jeff Patterson, left, and Tim McCall.

University full-time and working for a private security company, as well.

He has an AA degree in

the administration of justice from Portland Community

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Two new police officers for VPD

Two new officers have joined the Vernonia Police Department, one to replace Officer Tony Bartolomucci, the other hired through a federal COPS grant.

Jeff Patterson, 38, a Vernonia resident, will take Bartolomucci's position and will be trained as a DARE officer. Patterson worked as a police officer in Rockaway Beach

and was a reserve officer in the San Juan Islands in Washington, where he also worked part-time in a juvenile corrections program which provided first offenders with the opportunity for diversion.

Patterson has a BA degree in criminology from Southern Oregon State College, Ashland. He is also a professional potter, but likes police

work, especially working with juveniles, as a way to contribute to the community in a more substantial fashion. Patterson and his wife, Linda, have no children.

Tim McCall, 29, has two years of experience as a reserve officer, one year each in Hillsboro and Scappoose. Until he was hired, he had been attending Portland State