

County firefighters acquire safety training building

The Columbia County Firefighters Association has completed their Fire Safety Escape Trailer project, and it has already been put to the test. The first demonstration was at the Columbia County Fair in July. During the four days of the Fair, nearly 900 children and their families received fire safety training in the Trailer.

The main topics taught are how to develop an escape plan, and how to escape if their home catches on fire.

After viewing the attention-getting film "Donald Duck's Fire Survival", the children are asked to practice an actual escape from the upstairs of the trailer. They are taken to

a second-story bedroom, where they are reminded to close the bedroom door to keep smoke from filling the room while sleeping.

A smoke machine in the trailer produces a synthetic, non-toxic smoke that makes a simulated fire seem very real. As discussion continues, a smoke detector begins to sound. The children are instructed to attempt to escape the fire and they find smoke blocking one of the two ways out, the stairway. The children are then asked to find the second way out and quickly escape the smoky trailer. A ladder attached outside the second story bedroom window gives them real life prac-

tice escaping an upper story bedroom.

During the thirty minute class, a new understanding about fire and how to plan for, and escape, fire is taught. Every year over 5,000 Americans die in fires. Eighty-percent, or nearly 4,000, of those fire deaths take place in the home. In Oregon, the percentage is even higher at 84 percent. The Firefighters of Columbia County hope to use this trailer to reduce the loss of life by fire in the home.

Money for this training project came from donations from individuals and businesses and by an intense co-operative effort by all the firefighters of Columbia County. It required nearly \$10,000 in money and materials.

Labor and materials were provided mostly by the following: St. Helens Rural Fire District Fire Prevention Run committee, Willamette Carpenters Training Center in Portland, Chevron Chemical St. Helens Plant, Boise Cascade Paper Plant in St. Helens, Adair Homes of Hillsboro, Olympic Forest Products of Mist, Guardian Mini Storage of St. Helens, Clatskanie Volunteer Firefighter Association, Portland General Electric, Evelyn S. Carroll (in memory of Bill Carroll), PGE Beaver Generating Plant of Clatskanie, Rainier Volunteer Firefighter Association, and Columbia River Carpet One of Rainier.

The names of many other people and businesses who made contributions to the project, are placed on a sign attached to the side of the building, along with the names already mentioned.

This has been one of the most rewarding projects in the history of the Columbia County fire service, the firefighters agree. It provides an opportunity to teach a class and see children's eyes light up with excitement as they learn new information, then watch the children tug the hands of their parents or grandparents to come in and learn about fire safety.

The firefighters are very thankful for the support they provided.

Columbia County Fair a success

Over 20,000 persons attended the 1995 Columbia County Fair and, for the second year in a row, the fair finished in the black.

"Attendance was down just a bit from 1994," Fair Board chair Kathy Williamson said. "We had 20,571 attend this year and a record of 23,020 in 1994. Attendance was considerably better both years from the 11,937 recorded at the rainy 1993 fair."

Williamson said the financially-strapped fair, currently being run by volunteers and without a fair manager, has shown a nominal increase in net revenues over the past two fairs and is running in the black. "We've had a very active fair board this year," she pointed out, "and we had very few problems at the fair."

Initial financial reports show the fair taking in \$59,100 this year with expenses of \$57,195. "While we finished in the black, the board is anxious to increase revenues in 1996 and also bring more activities and displays to the fair," she said. "The board will be looking at ways to increase attendance and sponsorships, while also filling the grounds."

"With many new board members this year," Williamson added, "our goal was to put on this year's fair and investigate ways to dramatical-

ly improve it in 1996. At our last board meeting, we discussed numerous things we can do to make next year's fair better."

The board's considerations include an increase in the number of concessionaires and displays, improvements to the rodeo and carnival, and increasing community sponsorship. Improvements in the fair book and promotions are also being developed.

More 4-H Fair results

Following are more 4-H results from the 1995 Columbia County Fair.

POULTRY

Chickens, APA Standard Bred Large Fowl, Pullet, Blue Awards: Maryanne Miller (Champion), Vernonia; Steven Anderson (Reserve Champion), St. Helens.

Chickens, APA Standard Bred Large Fowl, Hen, Blue Awards: Maryann Miller, Vernonia; Rosanna Cooney, Rainier.

Showmanship, Intermediate, Blue Awards: Maryann Miller (Champion), Vernonia; Patricia Pelster, Vernonia; Bethany Petersen, Deer Island; Rosanna Cooney (Reserve Champion), Rainier.

Other Fowl, Old Female, Blue Awards: Maryann Miller, Vernonia. Old Male, Blue Awards: Maryann Miller (Champion), Vernonia; Patrick Velliquette (Reserve Champion), Clatskanie; Rosanna Cooney (2), Rainier.

Eggs, Other, Red Awards: Maryann Miller, Vernonia.

VHS volleyball season looks hopeful

The volleyball season is fast approaching and this year has potential to be one of the best in the history of the VHS program. "We are all very excited about the season and we hope the community is, too!" said head coach Dan Foss.

The varsity team returns every player from last year's squad, the first Vernonia team to reach the state tournament since 1981. The team finished in a ninth place tie last year and will be setting their goals high for this season.

The returning players are Michelle Busch, Opposite; Amber Dennis, Outside Hitter; Stacy Ochoa, Outside

Hitter; Tarah Pond, Setter; Brandy Richardson, Middle Blocker/Outside Hitter; Molly Skidmore, Outside Hitter/Defensive Specialist; Jennifer Young, Middle Blocker; Tory Young, All-Around. All are seniors except Tory Young, a junior.

"This squad has a great deal of experience," Foss said, "and with a few possible additions, they have the potential for a very memorable season."

Vernonia's home season will start with the annual "Pack-The-Gym 'Night", on Sept. 12, against last year's state champions, the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates. In addition to the competition, there will



50th annual Banks-Sunset Park Bar-B-Q and Truck Pull drew large, happy crowd once again



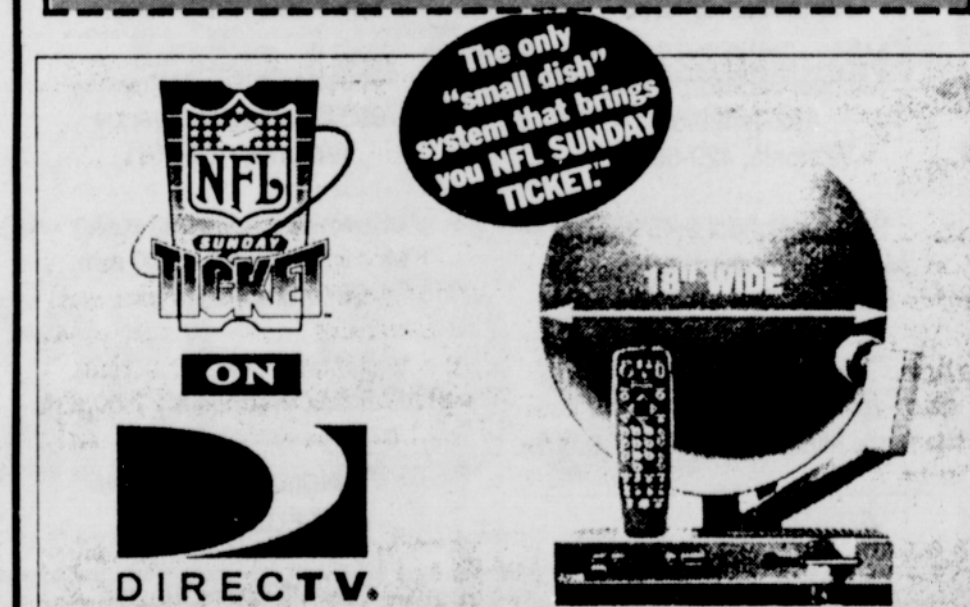
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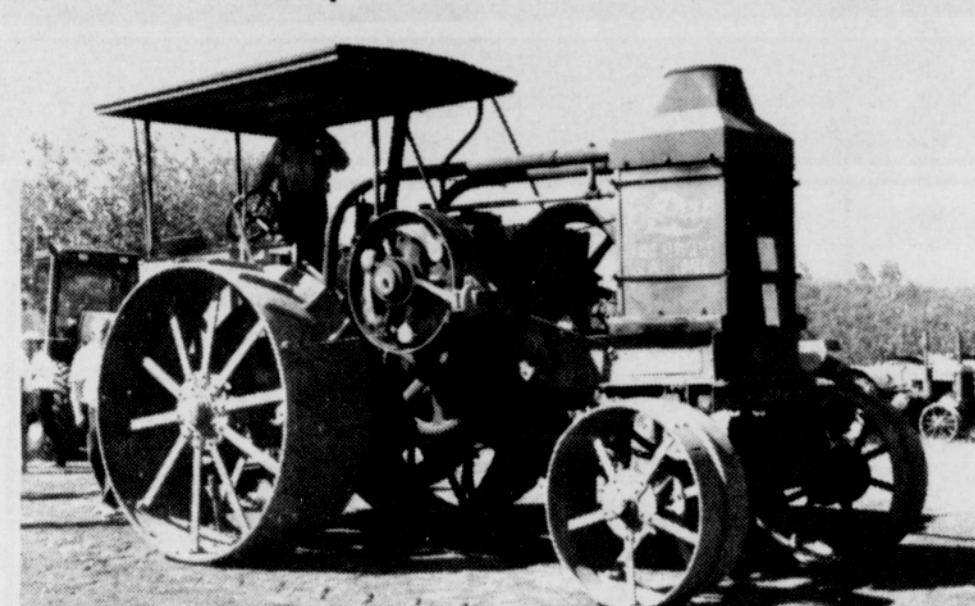
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Three former Sunset Mothers, Willa Hayes, 1975; Barbara Anderson, 1980 and Bobbie Parkin, 1982, shared a sunny convertible for the parade.



This monster machine, owned by Dan Leahy of Portland, is a 1913 Rumely Oilpull tractor. It has a two-cylinder, kerosene burning engine with 10" bore and 12" stroke. At 375 rpm, it generates 60 horsepower. It did a respectable job against numerous, more contemporary gasoline burning farm tractors.

A grand time was had by both participants and spectators during the 50th annual Banks Bar-B-Q and Tractor Pull.

Derekk and Dillon Vandehey took Grand Prize for their entry in the parade, a depiction of a Knight in Shining Armor and a Dragon.

Following are the parade

classes and First Place winners:
Commercial – VS Log Express
Open – Joe Evers All-American Tractor
Horse – Marina Schrader
Child – Sarah Hammond
Children's Group – Derekk and Dillon Vandehey
Motor Vehicles – Steve Work

Clubs – Washington County Dairy Women with Washington County Princess Billie Jo Baune.

Other activities included horseshoe tournaments, greased pole climb, frog jump, tractor and truck pulls and, of course, lots of barbecued beef sandwiches.



Though he huffed and he puffed, the frog wouldn't budge.

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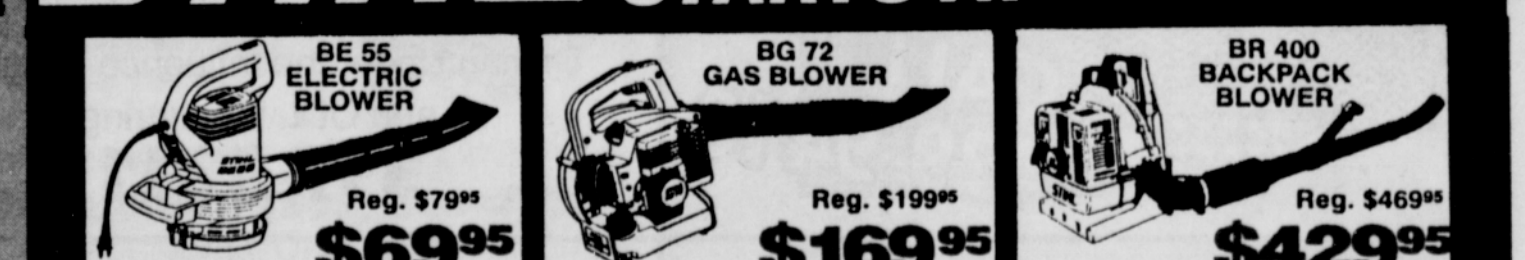
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