

Panel will investigate Sykes charges

The Oregon Government Standards and Practices Commission (GSPC) has authorized a formal investigation of the role played by former Columbia County Commissioner Michael Sykes in earmarking \$400,000 of county road department funds for improvements to Dike Road in Rainier.

A complaint filed by Naomi Bond alleges that Sykes misused his position by supporting the road improvements

for a proposed steel mill on Port of St. Helens property a few days before accepting a position as assistant manager at the port.

Sykes and Commissioner Joel Yarbor voted at a special meeting in Rainier to support the expenditure if the mill decides to locate on Dike Road.

Calling the complaint "ridiculous" Sykes said he would have been derelict in his duties if he had not set priorities designed to bring

economic development and good jobs to Columbia County. He also noted that the state Department of Economic Development offered to pay more than half of the road improvements if the county would pay the rest.

BHP Steel is considering the Rainier location beneath the Lewis & Clark Bridge, as well as a site across the Columbia River in Washington. If the new mill is built, it
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Fire started by children



Flames lit the night sky for blocks as a shed filled with most of a family's belongings burned to the ground.

Family's belongings destroyed

Three children playing with a cigarette lighter August 23 almost totally destroyed the belongings of a family who recently purchased a home in Vernonia.

Ken and Juana Howley, and their four children, moved from Michigan to Hillsboro in early May, hauling most of their belongings and all of Ken's carpentry tools in an 18' rental truck. While Ken drove the truck, Juana drove their mobile home. He took a job with Zerbrugg Construction in Hillsboro and they lived in the mobile home while looking for a place to settle.

They had just purchased and moved into a home on Jefferson Avenue, where they stored most of their belongings in a large shed behind the house while starting to fix up the new home.

On August 23, the family had gone to Hillsboro to take

care of some errands. In their absence, the children started a fire in the Howley's shed that quickly got out of control.

Among the items lost in the fire were thousands of dollars worth of carpentry tools, building supplies and most of the family's clothing, in addition to irreplaceable items such as photo albums and a collection of Spanish dolls

that had belonged to Juana's mother.

Their motor home was severely damaged, but was saved from destruction by neighbors who kept spraying water on it while firefighters were battling the fire.

Anyone who wishes to help the family replace necessary items, may call them at 429-7024.

Demo conventions will fill vacancies

Democratic Central Committee members will hold two nominating conventions in ten days to fill legislative vacancies in state Representative Districts 1 and 2. Each convention may nominate up to five people for appointment. The appointments will be made by the Boards of Commissioners in the affected counties.

One of the nominees selected for appointment to the

state Rep. Dist. 2 position vacated by Tim Josi...is Tim Josi, who was unable to rescind his resignation after reversing a decision to accept a job offer in Hawaii.

The District 2 convention was held Sept. 9 in Tillamook, with delegates from Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia Counties. Although Washington County has four precincts in District 2, they had no delegates at the convention be-

County mourns death of Tony Federici

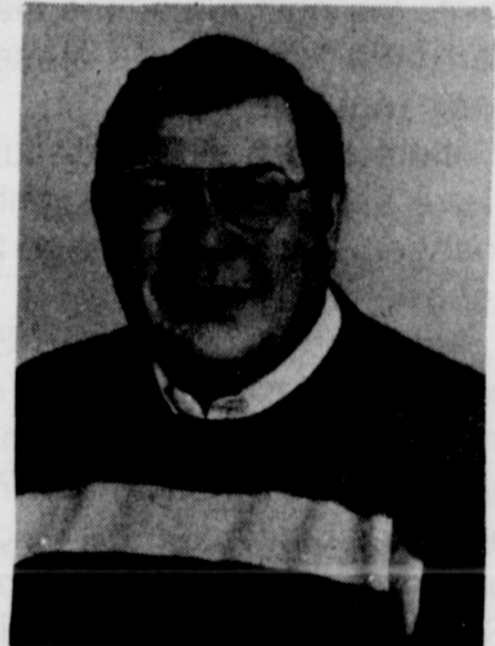
The Aug. 30 death of Tony Federici, 1st Dist. Representative, has left a hole in both the government and the heart of Columbia County.

Federici, 58, was hospitalized Aug. 27 after collapsing because of tachycardia, an irregular heart beat. He died of cardiac arrest.

At the time of his death, Federici was serving his second term in the state legislature, but had previously served in many capacities where his wide range of interests, his willingness to pursue solutions and his good humor were of great benefit to St. Helens and Columbia County.

A St. Helens native, Federici was born in 1937. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1962 and taught junior high school in Salem.

In 1965, he and his wife, Nancy, returned to his hometown, where they opened Tony's Shoes and immersed themselves in community activities while raising a son and daughter, Nick and Catherine.



Tony Federici

Grant will finance continuation of mediation for South Banks Project

The grant paying for mediation on the South Banks Project has been extended, city attorney Jim Lucas told the Banks City Council last night, and mediation is scheduled to resume Sept. 19.

Lucas also expressed concern about the many different entities involved in the project and whether they all have the necessary legal authority to bargain. Depending on that factor, "Mediation may or may not take place," Lucas said.

John Medeiros, chairman of the Banks School District Board of Directors, presented the council with a request for school district representation at the mediation table when it resumes.

Plans developed by a pro bono architect for the new city library specify construction abutting the adjacent building. The necessary easements and variances are being worked on.

The city engineer reported that plans have been com-

cause there are no central committee members in those precincts.

The three nominees, Carolyn Adamson, Mike Ellis and Josi, were chosen on only two ballots.

Adamson is a Cannon Beach council member and was legislative aide to former Reps. Tom Hanlon and Jackie Taylor. Ellis, of Tillamook, is director of the Tillamook
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