

## Business Notes

### Restructuring of Workforce tasks to address needs

The North Coast Workforce Quality Committee (NCWQC) has formed subcommittees to address the needs of three distinct, yet overlapping, segments of the workforce, according to Executive Director Bill Earles.

• The School-to-Work Sub-

committee will address the needs of the emerging workforce. Members of the group will work with educators and employers to improve the connection between business and schools (grades K-14). The partnership will employ several strategies designed to increase students' profes-

sional and technical competence before they enter the workforce.

• The Workforce Development Subcommittee will address the needs of the current workforce. That group will work with representatives of education, economic development, business, industry, labor and human services, to develop strategies to improve the quality of the workforce and the quantity of high-skill, high-wage jobs.

• The Service Delivery Subcommittee, comprised of members from the region's human service agencies, will address the needs of the transitional workforce by working with regional partners to improve coordination between employment and training programs.

According to Earles, "This approach will help Oregon reach its goal of having the best educated and prepared workforce in the nation by the year 2000, and a workforce equal to any in the world by 2010. To do that," he added, "we must form partnerships, work together, and rally entire communities around the issues of workforce and economic development."

The North Coast Workforce Quality Committee is one of 15 regional workforce quality committees in the Ore-

gon. NCWQC represents Region One, which consists of Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties. Local membership includes business and industry leaders, educators, social service providers and government officials. These partners work together to address issues such as education, community development and economic development.

There are a number of ways people can help the committee reach its goals:

• Offer a student a work-site learning opportunity in your business.

• Develop a new training program with regional partners aimed at enhancing the skills of your employees.

• Volunteer in your local high school or community college program.

• Provide opportunities for literacy and workplace skills training for current employees

• Become an active member of the North Coast Workforce Quality Committee.

NCWQC will hold a training meeting in Tualatin on May 13. Its next regular business meeting will be in Columbia County, June 10. Business meetings are on the second Monday of each even-numbered month.

For more information, call Earles at (503)397-6495.

#### WEATHER REPORT APRIL 1996

| DATE | TEMPERATURE |    | PRECIP.<br>AMT. |
|------|-------------|----|-----------------|
|      | HI          | LO |                 |
| 1    | 50          | 44 | .25             |
| 2    | 53          | 38 | .37             |
| 3    | 51          | 30 | T               |
| 4    | 58          | 31 | --              |
| 5    | 67          | 33 | --              |
| 6    | 72          | 40 | T               |
| 7    | 71          | 45 | --              |
| 8    | 80          | 47 | --              |
| 9    | 74          | 48 | --              |
| 10   | 60          | 45 | .02             |
| 11   | 53          | 45 | .01             |
| 12   | 48          | 39 | 1.21            |
| 13   | 48          | 37 | 1.08            |
| 14   | 58          | 37 | T               |
| 15   | 71          | 46 | .02             |
| 16   | 66          | 45 | .29             |
| 17   | 52          | 35 | .11             |
| 18   | 52          | 34 | .10             |
| 19   | 50          | 35 | .02             |
| 20   | 49          | 36 | .05             |
| 21   | 50          | 40 | .29             |
| 22   | 50          | 41 | .14             |
| 23   | 52          | 46 | 2.31            |
| 24   | 55          | 40 | 1.65            |
| 25   | 54          | 40 | .02             |
| 26   | 54          | 35 | .03             |
| 27   | 55          | 37 | .10             |
| 28   | 57          | 34 | .07             |
| 29   | 67          | 43 | T               |
| 30   | 67          | 37 | --              |

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Precipitation in April totalled 8.14 inches.

### Application process begins for Regional Strategies rural funding

Funding applications are now available for approximately \$580,000 in Rural Investment lottery funding focusing on financing of rural community economic and community development programs and projects. Locally determined activities undertaken and funded through the Rural Investment Fund must be intended to improve the economy of a rural area.

Eligible types of activities include, but are not limited to: telecommunications and transportation infrastructure, project feasibility studies, community infrastructure and facilities, workforce development activities and technical assistance to rural communities for project development and implementation. To be eligible, applications must come from Clatsop, Columbia or Tillamook County rural communities and demonstrate that the program or project is a local priority for fund-

ing.

The Northwest Oregon Economic Alliance (NOEA), which includes Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties, is one of 12 regions in the state involved in the Regional Strategies Program. The Rural Investment Fund is being administered by the NOEA Board, which is also responsible for funding decision-making. Deadline for funding applications is June 17, with funding decisions announced by the end of September.

For additional information about rural community development contact Margaret Forbes in Clatsop County at (503) 325-7870; Jim Brown in Columbia County at (503) 397-1035, or Val Folkema in Tillamook County at (503) 842-2236.

To receive an application packet, applicants should contact Mary McArthur, of NOEA, at (503) 228-5565.



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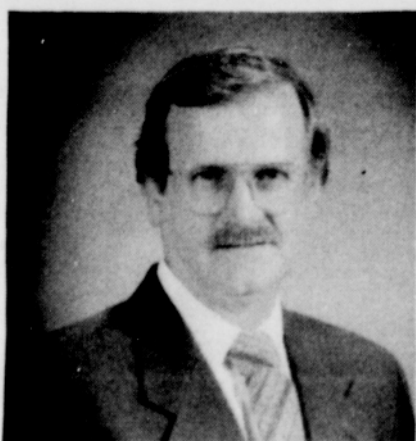
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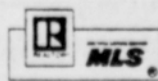


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**EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION:** Bill McDonald has 28 years of public service experience with cities, counties & criminal justice agencies. He holds a master's degree in public administration.

**LEADERSHIP:** Since being appointed to the Board of Commissioners, Bill McDonald has **TAKEN ACTION**—

**Evaluating** the structure and performance of county government through the charter process...

**Reforming** the civil service system and adopting modern personnel rules...

**Changing** the management of the Land Development Services Department to bring in strong, visionary leadership...

**Empowering** a professional engineer and manager to head the road department...

**Breaking the Gridlock** in surface mining regulations...

**Beginning** the process of rebuilding a professional, credible Sheriff's Department

**Creating a Vision** for Columbia County where wage earners can stay in the county and earn a living to support their families ... where development will reinforce shared values about open space, density, and transportation options.

**HELP BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!**

**ELECT BILL McDONALD  
COMMISSIONER**

(Authorized by Bill McDonald for Commissioner, P.O. Box 1204, Clatskanie, OR 97016)