



Tired and hungry, but happy, bicyclists relaxed at Hawkins Park following a weekend ride to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research. This is the second year the MS Society has made Vernonia the starting and finishing point for the ride. Vernonia Pride provided the food and beverages for the hungry crew.

Marines seek Korean MIA information

The U.S. Marine Corps Casualty Section is in the process of updating its database for the families of "unaccounted for" Marines from Korea. Recently, a mass mailing was sent to family members at the last known address, but there has been a poor response.

The Marine Corps is looking for the Primary Next of Kin of any family of Marines who did not return from Korea. They would like to have the name, relationship, address, and telephone number of this family member. Once this information is on file, the database will be updated and the

Department of Defense will send the family a quarterly newsletter that contains information regarding POW/MIA issues.

Family members may contact Ann Hammers, Assistant Head of the U.S. Marine Corps Casualty Section, at 1-800-847-1597.

Time to file nominations for Banks mayor, council seats

The positions of mayor and three council members will be on the November 5 ballot for the City of Banks.

In addition to Mayor Mike Crippen, the terms of Councilors Evelyn Maller, Bob Orlovski and Norma Stewart will end this year. All of the incumbents have indicated they will seek re-election and have taken out nominating petitions except Norma Stewart,

who has not yet indicated her intention.

The position of mayor is for a two-year term. Council positions are four-year terms.

Any registered voter who has been a resident of Banks for 12 months is eligible to run for office. Nominating petitions are available at City Hall Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., or by phoning 324-5112 to make an appointment.

Each petition must have a minimum of 15 signatures of registered voters. Petitions must be returned to City Hall by August 30, 1996.

Library bids exceed budget

With the lowest bid coming in at approximately \$100,000 over the amount budgeted for the new Banks Municipal Library, Banks council members, Mayor Mike Crippen and Recorder Bob Prickett are working hard to cut costs in an effort to save the project.

At this time, it appears they will be able to cut about \$50,000 from the proposal and will have to seek an additional \$50,000 in funding from the Washington County Community Development Block Grant program.

If the additional \$50,000 cannot be raised, it is likely that the long-sought library will not be built within the next few years.

Intel donates PCs to CCSO

Intel Corporation has donated four personal computers to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. The refurbished computers will be utilized to expand the current automated records keeping system.

The new computers have the capacity to perform word processing and, at the same time, serve as a conduit for entry and retrieval of records information.

Three of the computers will be installed at the Sheriff's Office in St. Helens; the fourth will be at the Alston Corners substation of the Clatskanie Fire Department. This will allow the Sheriff's Office to provide a better presence in the north end of the County.

Additionally, the department will soon purchase four lap-top computers, so deputies can write their reports in the field, eliminating the need for them to drive back and forth between the office and the field just to write reports.

It is hoped that these improvements will keep deputies in the field for longer periods of time and, in some instances, reduce the response time to calls for service.

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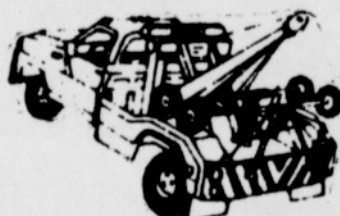
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