

# building its future with energy and enthusiasm

## Volunteers, both adults and youth, play a major role in City's successes

### Vernonia Development Corporation

The two-year-old Vernonia Community Development Corporation is a community-based, not-for-profit organization designed to follow through with projects the city can't take on.

The CDC works with private property owners and public agencies. At this time, it is working with a private property owner on a proposal to develop a sports complex and RV sites on the former site of Oregon American Lumber Company.

Other projects include helping negotiate a potential three-way property trade between a state agency and two private corporations, working with the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce on downtown business development, and studying the feasibility of constructing an "incubator" building for fledgling businesses.

### Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce

A revitalized and enthusiastic Chamber of Commerce now has office space and a location for a Visitor Information Center. When the Chamber received a grant to construct a small building, a few years ago, the city was still considering how to fund a new City Hall. The chamber decided to donate its \$37,000 to the municipal project in exchange for space at the building's

entrance. Though not yet open regularly, the chamber is seeking volunteers to staff the office part time to assist visitors needing information about the Vernonia area.

The chamber and CDC are working jointly on development of a Business Assistance Team of local people who will be trained in seminars provided by Rural Development Initiatives, which directed several months of community meetings for development of the community's long term goals.

### Vernonia Wheels Park Project Committee

The efforts to develop a skate park in Vernonia operate on the energies and creative thinking of youth in the community. The initial idea was an offshoot of a school authorized club, Youth in Action, which has successfully helped with many community projects.

Part of that creative thinking engendered the decision that a skate park is too limited and, to do the job right, the facility should be designed to include bikes and other forms of "wheel power."

The youth have developed the design, with the guidance of a professional skate park designer, and are now looking for a location and funding. At this time, they need adult guidance in fund raising because this project goes way beyond bake sales and car washes.

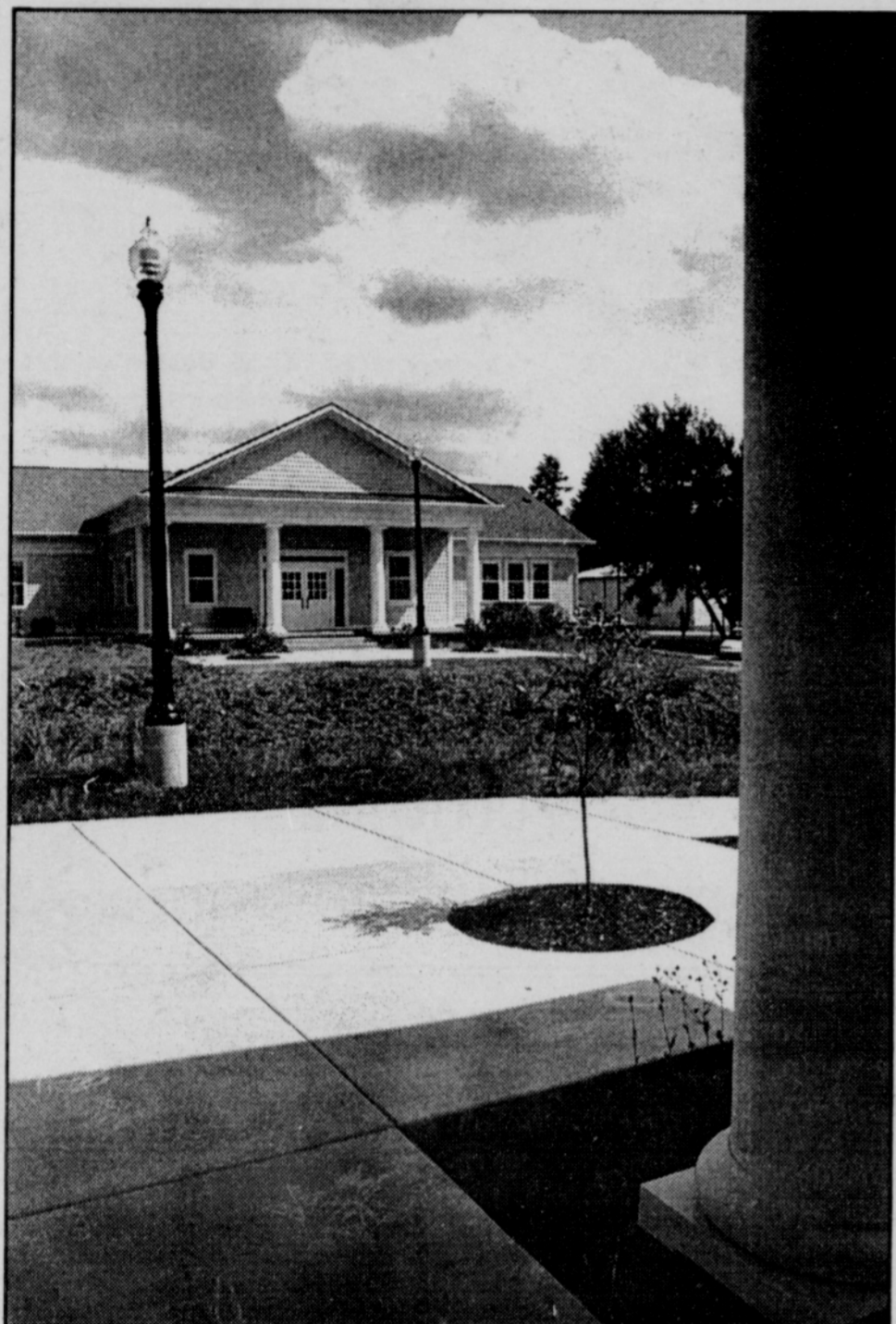
Anyone interested in helping advise the group on fund raising is asked to call YA advisor Michelle Blum at 429-0159.

### Municipal airport will get improvements,

Vernonia has had a municipal airport since the early 1930s. It was built by CCC crews during the depression, as part of the nation's economic recovery. Since that time, aside from occasional grading and hangar building, little has been done to

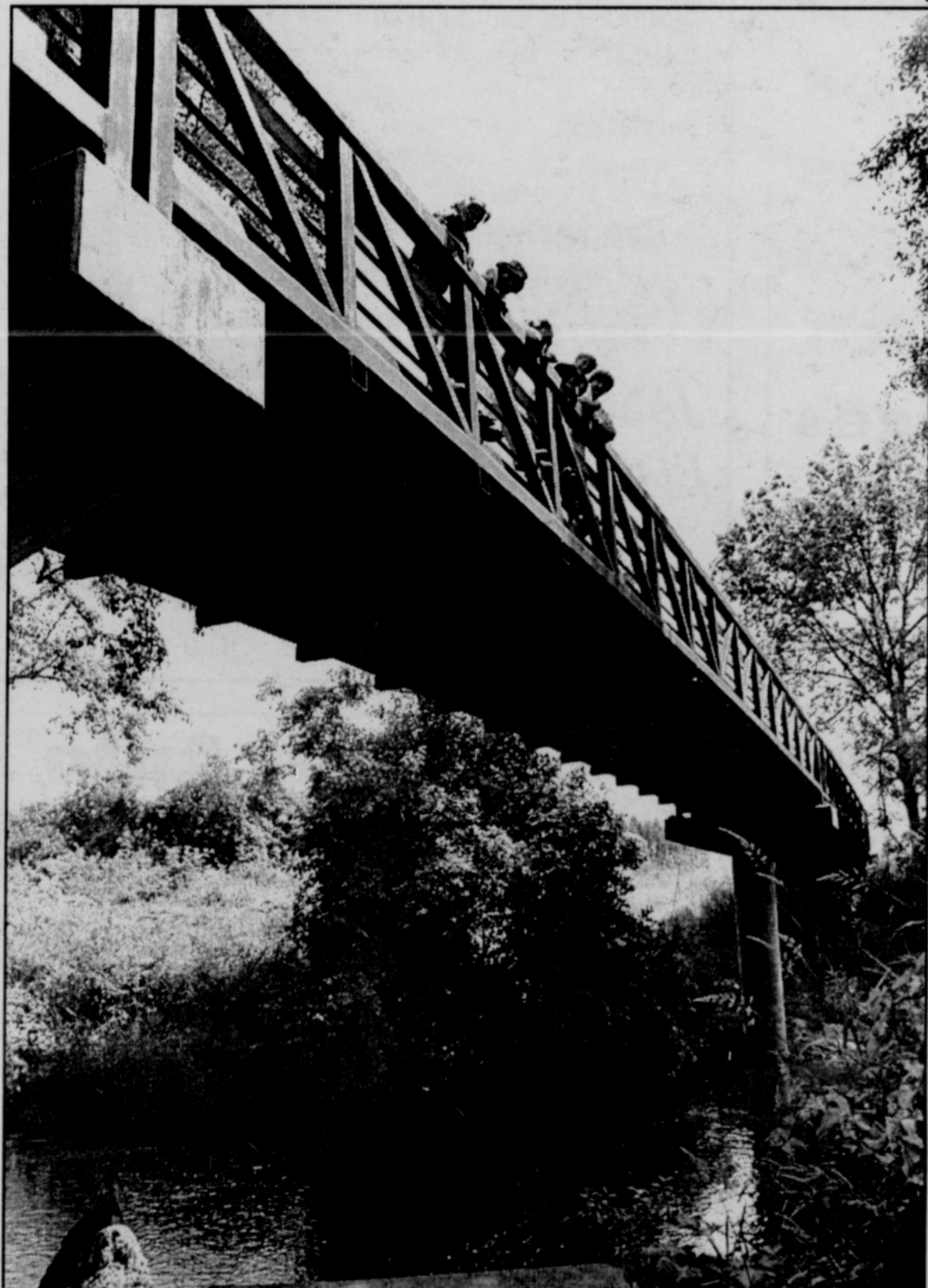
improve the original product.

That will change. A study authorized by the City has identified and prioritized what is needed to properly utilize the airport. Planning is now underway on an improvement program to develop the airport.



JUDY HILL/THE INDEPENDENT

This view, from the public library's front entrance to the rear entrance of City Hall, looks across Bear Creek, which was uncovered and released from an underground culvert when the property was developed. When the funds are available, a bridge will cross the creek between the two light poles shown in the photo.



JUDY HILL/THE INDEPENDENT

The heads of children from Vernonia Head Start's summer program can be seen as they peer over a bridge railing at Rock Creek. This bridge is part of the Banks-Vernonia trail extension from Anderson Park to Vernonia Lake.

This update on Vernonia was brought to you by the following:

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