

Business Notes

You can participate in preparation of the "Oregon Owners' Manual"

What would Oregonians say to each other about living here if given the chance? SOLV, a statewide Oregon non-profit organization founded in 1969 by Governor Tom McCall, and a coalition of community leaders want to know and are inviting residents to participate in a survey. Results will be compiled

into 12 "Oregon Practices" and published in the *Oregon Owner's Manual* early next year.

The coalition was formed last year to explore the idea of the *Oregon Owner's Manual*. The survey is based on findings from the Oregon Business Council and Oregon Progress Board, with input from other coalition members.

"There has been an erosion in the quality of life in Oregon," said SOLV Executive Director Jack McGowan. "Whenever we introduce the concept of the *Oregon Owner's Manual* anywhere in Oregon, there is a strong, positive response.

People care about this state and want to be involved in en-

suring its long term livability. This is not surprising, given the more than 65,000 volunteers involved annually in SOLV programs to clean up, restore and enhance Oregon."

Coalition member Ginger Harrison said "Our goal is to inspire all citizens, whether they're fifth generation Orego-

nians or have been here for five weeks, to care more deeply about our state and its people and to ask 'What are you willing to do to ensure Oregon's long-term livability?'"

Survey respondents who send their names and addresses will receive a complimentary copy of the 12 Oregon Practices.

In addition to focusing on the Oregon Practices, the manual will include short essays (300 words or less) by Oregonians, describing what makes Oregon special and worth preserving. The manual may also include one-sentence answers to this question: When you're away from Oregon for a few days, what do you miss the most?

Survey and essay forms are available from *The Independent*, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064. The survey and essay forms are also available on line at <www.solv.org>.

The deadline for submitting completed surveys and essays to SOLV is October 30. Responses may be mailed to SOLV at P.O. Box 1235, Hillsboro, OR 97123; or faxed to 503-844-9575.

Publication of the *Oregon Owner's Manual* is scheduled for Oregon Statehood Day, February 14, 2001. Pre-sales will take place in November and December of this year.

Habitat for Humanity ready to start its first Columbia County home

Everyone is invited to come to the groundbreaking ceremony for Columbia County's first Habitat for Humanity home. The ceremony will be held October 7 at 11:00 a.m. at 145 South 3rd Street in St. Helens. "This is really a celebration for the community", said Boyd Ruby, president of Columbia County Habitat for Humanity. "Many people have been work-

ing toward this goal for a long time and to see it happening is exciting".

The County-wide organization received a boost from the Federici Family Trust, with the donation of the land in May. Under the program, a family in need is given the opportunity to build their own house, working alongside volunteers from the

from outside the county. An ad-community. The "partner family" purchases the completed house for the estimated cost of materials, with a non-interest loan. Mortgage payments are used to build homes for other families.

Although Columbia County Habitat for Humanity is affiliated with the International Habitat for Humanity organization, it

receives no financial support. Additional \$45,000 is needed to complete the house. To make a donation toward the construction of the St. Helens house, please mail a check payable to Columbia County Habitat for Humanity, P. O. Box 921, St. Helens, OR 97041. To find out about volunteer opportunities or apply for a Habitat home, call 503-366-4595.

Thousands needed to help with annual Oregon Fall Beach Cleanup

Saturday, October 14th, marks the date for the 17th annual Great Oregon Fall Beach Cleanup. The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. along the entire Oregon coast, from the Washington to the California borders. Volunteers may check in at one of 41 meeting sites, pick up a

litter bag and head down to the beach to help improve the coast for wildlife and winter visitors.

Coordinators suggest volunteers bring gloves, wear sturdy shoes and be safe while having a good time! Everyone should take safety precautions while on the beach including: Don't

turn your back on the ocean, don't play on or around logs and be aware of incoming tides.

Groups of 20 or more are asked to register in advance by calling the appropriate Zone Captain. Visit the web site at www.solv.org or call SOLV at 800-322-3326 for a list of meeting sites and Zone Captains.

"This is a great opportunity for Oregonians and visitors alike to take an active part in preserving and enhancing this great state's public beaches", says Executive Director Jack McGowan.

Along with SOLV, the cleanup is coordinated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association.

Special guests will be at County Fair Board meeting

Vicki and Ken Miller, of Beaverton, will be special guests of the Columbia County Fair

Fair board seeks theme for next year

The Columbia County Fair Board is seeking suggestions for a theme for the 2001 fair. Mail suggested themes to:

Columbia County Fair Board
P. O. Box 74

St. Helens, OR 97051

or call 503-397-4231 with your ideas.

Themes may also be delivered on weekdays to the fairgrounds office, or at the Fair Board meeting Oct. 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. All suggestions must be submitted no later than Oct. 9.

Board at their October meeting.

The Millers, who attended all of the 36 county fairs in Oregon this year, have publicly announced that the Columbia County Fair & Rodeo is their top choice as the best county fair in the state. Among their plaudits were that the Columbia County Fair was the "cleanest and friendliest" fair.

Anyone who would like to join the Fair Board in thanking the Millers for their comments is invited to attend the Oct. 9 meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Building.

The fair board meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. For additional information, call the fair office at 503-397-4231.

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for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who vandalized trees and picnic tables at Lake Vernonia, Sept. 24-25, 2000.

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503-429-7335

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