

County looks at needs and issues

It is time to update Columbia County's Needs and Issues List for 2003, and the City of Ver-

nonia is accepting suggestions by community members or organizations.

Huser will head organization

Columbia County Clerk Elizabeth E. (Betty) Huser was recently elected as president of the Oregon Association of County Clerks at their conference in The Dalles.

OACC is a professional organization for county clerks, directors of elections and support staff. The organization provides leadership, training and a network for county clerks and administrators in recording and election procedures.

Other officers elected are vice president Charlotte A. McIver from Wallowa County, Treasurer Doyle Shaver from Douglas County and Secretary Dee Berman from Crook County.

Three categories are included on the list: community facilities, infrastructure and community readiness. The City must submit its list to the County by October 11. Prioritization at the county level will occur on October 17.

Projects may be submitted to City Administrator Mike Sykes at Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, or by calling 503-429-5291 by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7. Council will prioritize projects at the October 7 Council meeting.

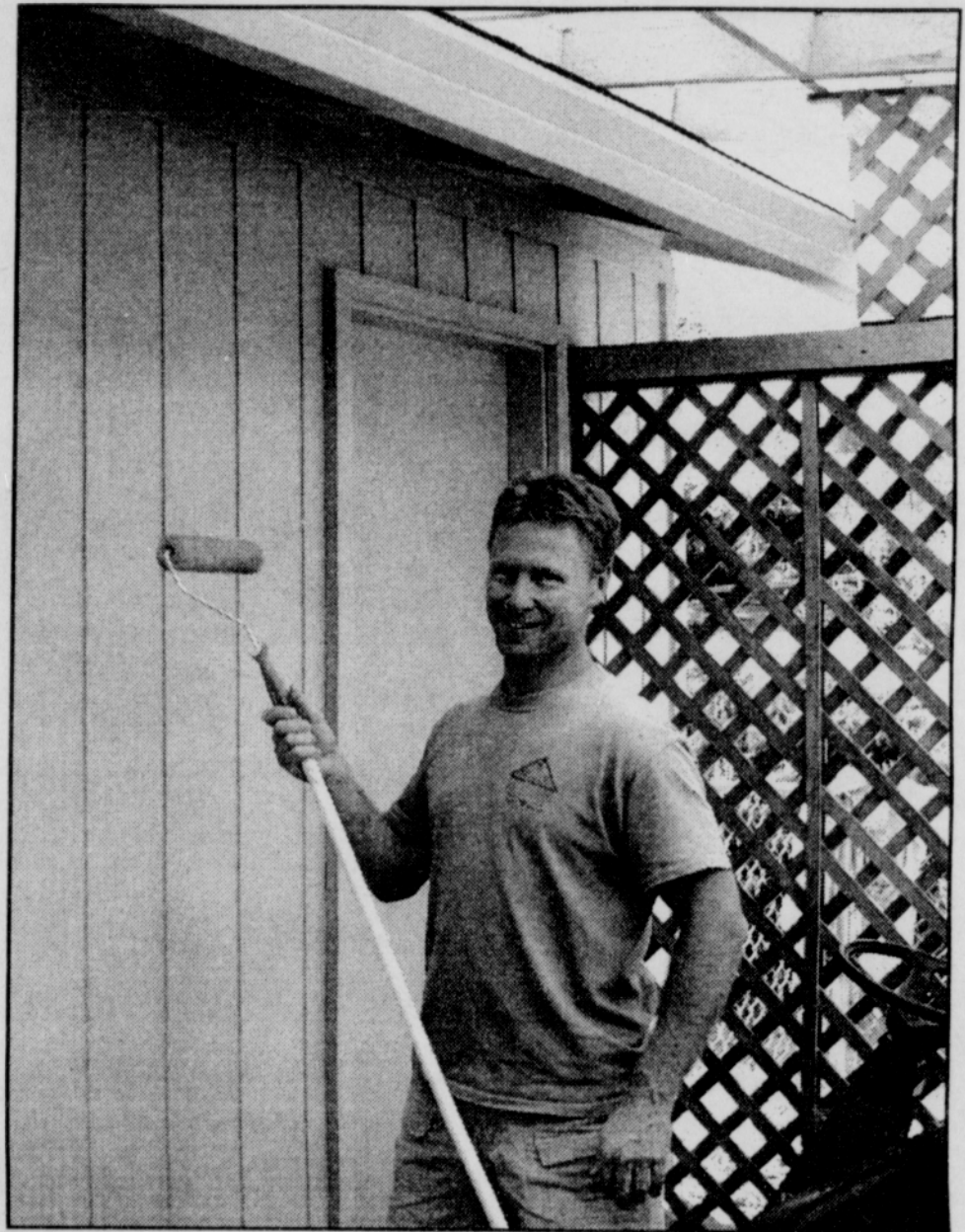
Columbia County will forward the final list to the Oregon Economic Development Department, which will use it as a way to prioritize projects funded by Federal and State Agencies. Projects not included on this list are, typically, not considered for funding.

"Day of Caring" helps county residents

Prepping and painting the home of Shirlee Daughtrey, of Vernonia, was the local project chosen by United Way for their "Day of Caring." Paint donated by Fisterola Painting Co., Inc., of Longview, was applied by volunteers from PGE, Wilcox & Flegel, Vernonia Pride and others, including Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde.

Other tasks completed by volunteers included major yard clean up, removing blackberry bushes, trimming shrubs and trees, spreading bark dust and gravel, landscaping, cleaning downspouts and gutters, building a back porch and a railing on a front porch, installing gutters and erecting a chain link fence around a lot.

The five projects chosen for the Day of Caring were in Clatskanie, Rainier, St. Helens and Vernonia. All projects were suggested by groups or individuals within the community.



Jim Westing, of Portland, was one of many volunteers who spent the Day of Caring as a United Way volunteer.

Fire restrictions remain in effect until there is a lot more rainfall

Fall officially began on September 22. The days are shorter, the sun's angle is lower and its rays less intense. However, there has not yet been enough rainfall to lift fire restrictions in northwest Oregon because dry east winds can quickly create critical fire danger levels.

"Fall is the time when we can have our worst fire danger," said Mike Simek, Unit Forester with the state Dept. of Forestry.

The general deer hunting season has begun in western Oregon. Hunters should be aware of, and comply with, all fire prevention regulations. In addition, hunters and others using natural cover areas must be aware of land closures. Many private industrial lands in the county are closed to the public and will remain closed until significant rain penetrates deeply into the forest floor.

Forest fire danger is increasing with the dry and windy con-

ditions. The open burn ban remains in effect through Columbia County. Industrial and public restrictions are in place to reduce the risk of human caused fires. Some common public restrictions and requirements include no smoking in the woods or near any combustible vegetation, no motorized vehicles on back roads containing flammable vegetation and no fireworks.

Power saws used for personal woodcutting are prohibited, unless waived. Current waiver under Level II allows operation until 1:00 p.m. Under a Level III, there is no waiver and power saw use is prohibited.

When driving improved forest roads, vehicles must carry a shovel and a one gallon water supply or 2-1/2 pound fire extinguisher.

For more information, call Columbia City ODF office at 503-397-2636.

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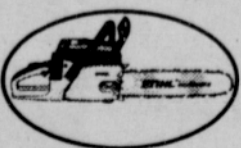
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