

Business Notes

County sets transportation workshops

Two meetings relating to planning for and financing of transportation projects in Columbia County and the cities of Clatskanie, Vernonia, Columbia City, Scappoose, St. Helens and Rainier have been scheduled.

The first will be on October 22 in the Columbia County Courthouse, Extension Service Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 130 Strand in St. Helens. The second meeting will be October 29

in the Council Chamber of the Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street in Vernonia. Both meetings will be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide information and solicit comments about a project aimed at improving coordination among the county and cities in managing growth and planning, building and paying for future transportation projects.

The project is being undertaken by the county in cooperation with the cities and with assistance from the consulting firms of Cogan Owens Cogan and David Evans and Associates.

Specific issues to be discussed include:

- Consistency between County and city transportation plans, policies and standards.

- Exploration of a joint County/City process for financing transportation improvements through system development changes in the Scappoose and St. Helens areas.

- Methods and issues related to transfer of roads between the County and cities, as urban development and annexation occurs.

Outcomes of the project will include amendments to city and county plans and ordinances related to transportation plans, standards, policies and responsibilities for county roads and recommendations related to the development of joint city/county system development charges.

For more information, call Jim Holycross, Land Use Planner, Columbia County at 503-397-1501 or holycrj@co.columbia.or.us

Unclaimed property reports due

The Division of State Lands reminds businesses, organizations and agencies that reports of unclaimed property and accompanying payment must be sent to the agency between Oct. 1 and Nov. 1.

"Many businesses or organizations don't know that state law requires them to search for the owner of unclaimed property worth more than \$100," said Pamela Klecker, reports coordinator. "If you have never filed, this is a great year to start," she added.

The 2001 Legislature created an amnesty period extending through Dec. 31, 2002, when no interest or penalties will be assessed related to reporting requirements for unclaimed property.

The legislation also shortened the length of time that holders must retain some types of unclaimed property and reduced the holding period for all types of property not listed in statutes from five to three years.

Businesses and organizations may request an extension for reporting unclaimed property by contacting Klecker. Send a written request to: Trust Property Section, 775 Summer St. NE Suite 100, Salem OR 97301; by e-mail: holder@dsl.state.or.us; or fax: (503) 378-

4844. Provide an estimate of a filing date and state the reason you need more time.

To learn more about reporting requirements, or to access information and reporting forms, call (503) 378-3805 or go to the DSL Web site: <http://statelands.dsl.state.or.us>. Click on Unclaimed Property, then Reporting Information. You also can check with other states at www.unclaimed.org. For a free software package to create unclaimed property reports that can be filed in any state electronically, see: www.wagers.net and click on Holder Reporting System.

Once money or property is reported to the state as unclaimed, Oregon tries to locate the missing owners. With a few exceptions, there is no cost to the owner. If the state can't find the owner, unclaimed proceeds are held in the Common School Fund for claim by the owner or heir forever. The CSF benefits Oregon's K-12 public schools.

To find out if the state is holding unclaimed property in your name, go to the DSL Web site and click on Check for Unclaimed Property. The list is updated regularly and contains more than 710,000 names with accounts valued at nearly \$128 million.

Food Handler's class in Vernonia

A Food Handler's Class will be held on Monday, October 28 at 3:30 p.m. at Vernonia Headstart, 500 California Avenue in Vernonia.

Those attending will be tested on their knowledge and understanding of information in the Food Handler's Manual. The manual may be purchased from Public Health, 2370 Gable Road in St. Helens or checked out from the Vernonia Public Library. It is highly recommended that the manual be read before taking the test. A pencil or pen will be needed, also.

For more information, call Mark Edington at 503-366-3828.

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