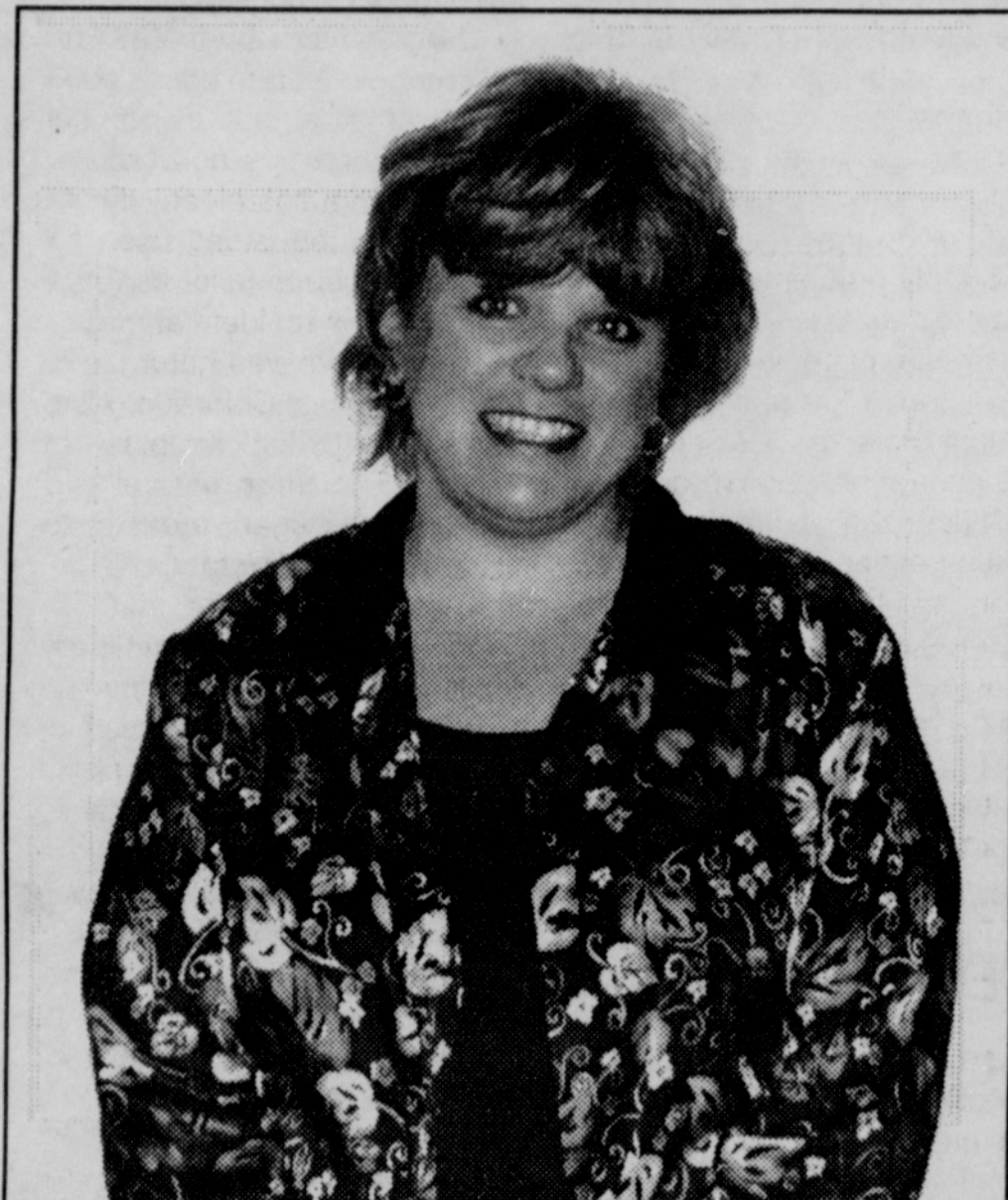


Business Notes



Ellen Koertje

Broker joins Oregon Realty ofc.

Real estate broker Ellen Koertje is new to Vernonia and new to the Vernonia office of Oregon Realty, but she has brought with her a solid background in the real estate business, with ten years of experience in central Oregon, particularly in the Prineville area.

She moved to Vernonia re-

cently, when her husband was named chief of the North Plains Police Department. The family also includes a son who is enrolled in Vernonia High School.

"I'm ready and eager," Ellen said with a smile, about becoming involved in her new home territory.

Nehalem Watershed Council will meet at Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Hall

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council will meet September 25, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Mist Birkenfeld Fire Hall.

On the agenda will be an update of the Nehalem Chinook Population study, provided by Todd Boswell, Nehalem Project Leader for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In case of heavy rain, if the County seeks public representative for Solid Waste board

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners is soliciting applicants for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (public representative).

Interested applicants should call the Board of Commissioners office at 503-397-4322.

Applications must be received by September 30, 2003.

Chinook begin to migrate, Boswell will be in the field and unable to attend the meeting.

For more information, call Maggie Peyton at 503-429-2401.

City can now accept credit/debit cards

The City of Vernonia is now accepting Visa, Master Card and debit card payments. Electronic payments are also accepted, when the necessary forms have been filed.

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State minimum wage to increase by 15¢

Oregon's minimum wage will increase by \$.15 from \$6.90 per hour to \$7.05 per hour, effective January 1, 2004.

The change was triggered by voter-approved Ballot Measure 25, in November of 2002, which increased Oregon's minimum wage of \$6.50 per hour to \$6.90 per hour effective Janu-

ary 1, 2003. The measure also requires the state labor commissioner to adjust the minimum wage based on a rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The adjustment is calculated every September, rounded to the nearest five cents and becomes effective the following January.

The CPI is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed goods and services, such as food, shelter, medical care, transportation fares and other goods and services used in day-to-day living. It is published annually by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

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