

Business Notes

CCB adds home design features

During the 2005 Legislative session, Oregon lawmakers passed House Bill 2525, which mandated the Construction Contractors Board (CCB) to develop a list of features that may make residential housing more accessible to a person with disabilities.

The Model Features List includes construction options that help the elderly or disabled to "age in place," or for designing homes that are more accessible to older or disabled residents, their family or friends.

New home developers are not required to offer clients the list, nor are they obligated to supply a given feature.

The CCB invited members of the community with disabilities, advocates for the disabled, architects, builders and other government agencies involved with housing issues to help develop the list.

The list includes options for both inside and outside the home and was developed with

specific living spaces in mind. It is possible that as baby boomers head toward retirement age, some home builders may find customers seeking such features more and more.

The list may be downloaded from the CCB web site <www.ccb.state.or.us>. It is located in the contractor section under the "Publications/Forms" link under "Miscellaneous." Model Features for Accessible Homes can be printed and used in construction planning.

County jobless rate unchanged

Columbia County's unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 6.2 percent in December. This was still a bit higher than the statewide unadjusted rate of 5.5 percent and higher than the national rate of 4.6 percent. Total employment in the county dipped by 143 from November and the number of unemployed people increased by 50. Total employment was 21,553 in December

Columbia 9-1-1 award for budget skills

For the fourth year in a row, Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The criteria for this award program is designed to require progressively complex proficiencies in aspects of public budget preparation and administration. It recognizes excellence in govern-

mental budgeting and specifically recognized Nancy Edwards, Administrative Services Manager and Maryjo Beck, Office Support Specialist.

Since the inception of the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Programs in 1984, less than 1,000 entities have received this award. Columbia 9-1-1 was chosen for this award from among 14,000 entities and managers in the U.S. and Canada.

A panel of independent reviewers examined the District's budget, judging that it met program criteria as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan and a communications device. In the letter announcing the award, Stephen Gauthier, GFOA's Director of Technical Services, wrote, "This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by your organization."

Columbia 9-1-1 Board President Henry Heimuller points out that the award reflects the District's overall commitment to efficient, effective services. We're thrilled that our budget has been recognized for a fourth year in a row because it demonstrates the level of consistency and commitment that runs through our whole organization – in this case, particularly singling out our financial management staff. Heimuller added, "It is important that we focus on the details that make our emergency communications a vital, reliable link for all the citizens in all the communities we serve. Recognition from the outside that we are doing that well, helps validate that our commitment to district residents is appropriate and valuable."

Columbia 9-1-1 Communications is a Special District providing emergency communications for every community throughout Columbia County.

Arthur Strand Insurance Inc.

Your Local Independent Insurance Agent.

(Formerly Vernonia Insurance)

Debbie, Carole, Marla, Kelley, Carrie, Jennifer and Jim
representing 7 major insurance companys & 50 more,
along with 93 years of knowledge and experience to provide
you with the best coverage to best fit your insurance needs.



Member of Liberty Mutual Group
North Pacific



Call us today for a quote

503-429-2010

953 Bridge Street Vernonia, OR



PROGRESSIVE*



SAFECO*

