

School board may petition OSAA for reclassification

Power of the People

From page 12

gave Norie Dimeo-Ediger, Richard Bowden and Moore (who is beginning a second term) their oath of office at the July 6 meeting allowing the board to conduct business – a quorum of three is required. The board interviewed two candidates, Laurie Schlegel and Dan Strewblow, for the board position vacated in June by Duanne Lundsten. The board had a difficult time deciding between the two candidates, finally appointing Schlegel to the open position. First term members are now a majority of the board.

After extended discussion, the board agreed to review all of the district's current goal statements, including the budget guiding principles, long range goals, and board goals. The board asked interim superintendent Foster to develop a more streamlined draft for the board to use as a starting place. Though Moore tried hard to limit next month's workshop agenda to this discussion, the board also agreed to discuss a timeline for a superintendent

search.

Foster gave the board updates on two issues that have recently surfaced. According to Foster members of the Church of Latter Day Saints objected to the inclusion of Beloved on the reading list for the junior English Advanced Placement class. Foster said that he called BYU (Brigham Young University) and was told that the book was included on their list of recommended reading. However, after meeting with teachers and parents, alternative reading materials will be made available. Foster assured the board that the alternatives are equally rigorous.

Foster also informed the board that the district administrative team has discussed petitioning the OSAA for reclassification to a smaller league. Bowden and Dimeo-Ediger expressed a need for public information and input. Foster said that he would have Principal Jim Smith and AD Wyman Smith include a presentation with the fall sports orientations.

Discussion of routine policy adoptions was prolonged as

new board members asked detailed questions about administrative rules (ARs) describing a

new job description and the wellness report. The job de-

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Marc Farmer's column will be back on September 3.

New's contributions feted at Vernonia Society picnic

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Bob New was recognized for his keen memory and willingness to share information with people, places and events of years past. In a surprise presentation by Carol Davis, President of the Vernonia Pioneer Museum, New was given a plaque and flowers. This well-deserved recognition came from a group of New's friends who shared the early years with him in Vernonia.

New was born, raised and educated in Vernonia, graduat-

ing from high school in 1947. He was born on Third Avenue (since renamed Madison Ave.). His was a large family, which may help account for the standing opinion that he was either related to or knew almost everyone in Vernonia while he lived here. New is considered by many to be a human encyclopedia of Vernonia history. He has made many contributions to the museum.

Bob Potts, another Vernonia resident from the 1930 to 1950 era commented, "There is no

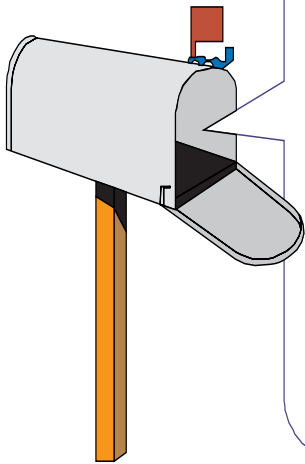
one more deserving of our recognition and appreciation than Bob New for his service, friendship and contributions to help us remember an important part of our lives in this community. We are grateful and express our feelings with this recognition."

New now resides in Vancouver, Washington, with his wife Dolores. Dolores is the daughter of the late Cecil Johnson, longtime manager of Miller Mercantile before the store closed in 1963.



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There's nothing better than spending these warm, clear days of summer in your yard. Here in Oregon, we can enjoy eating, playing and relaxing outside well into the fall. All this nice dry weather creates perfect conditions for wildfires too, especially when there are high winds and lightening storms.

Protect yourself and your property from the threat of wildfires by creating a defensible space around your home. Imagine a 30 to 200-foot buffer around your house that you keep clear of any dead plant material. Try to plant only fire-resistant, low-growing plants and shrubs in this zone.

Here are a few tips for maintaining your defensible space:

- Prune dead plants and clean out your gutters throughout the summer and fall.
- Keep the low-growing plants and shrubs around your house well watered until the rainy season begins.

- Consider pruning back any tree branches that are close to the house or ground.
- Stack the wood pile well away from the house.

For more ideas or to request the publication *Living with Fire*, contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry or Rural Fire District office.

Columbia 9-1-1 wants to make sure everyone can enjoy the nice weather and stay safe during wild-fire season. Please help protect yourself and your community by maintaining your yard. If you do see a fire start, don't wait. Call 9-1-1 right away. When it comes to fires, every second counts.



Your Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District, serving all of our communities since 1991.