

24 Years Ago This Month

The April 24, 1986, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on page 5:

The Jamboree committee's request for use of School District 47J properties during the 30th Jamboree was not approved at the district's April meeting, in the absence of Jamboree representatives. The matter will be reviewed at the May meeting.

Most critical to the Jamboree has been finding an acceptable site for the carnival. Sue Cavi-

nee reported that the carnival had committed to the Jamboree upon the assurance that either the school property or the new city hall site at the corner of Weed and Maple streets will be available.

The school property is most desirable for a number of reasons, paramount of which is that the city hall site needs leveling and surfacing work to be usable.

In other developments, Mario Leonetti, chairman of the concessions committee, re-

vealed plans for tightening up the procedures and regulations for issuing permits and controlling the operations of vendors.

"County health officials," he declared, "have been asking to inspect all food vendors on site.

"Care will be exercised to prevent vendors from sneaking in late to avoid inspections and fees," he continued.

A matter of serious concern to all community celebrations, including Jamboree, surfaced in a report by Fred Klinger, who reported that the liability insur-

ance quotation for this year's event was between \$2000 and \$2,500, with no guarantee that it would not be higher by August 1. Last year's premium was in the \$600 range. An increase of 400% or more threatens to eliminate community celebrations. The executive board will research the matter and make a recommendation to the next meeting.

Urban legend about 9-1-1 not to be trusted

From page 8

nationwide number to get emergency assistance. There is no reason to use another number. That's it, nothing secret, just call 9-1-1. Calling 9-1-1 is still the fastest way to get professional help in a hurry." 9-1-1 should be used only in emergency situations.

An Oregon Perspective

From Page 3

Consumer protections for financial products are not so different than consumer protections for household goods. Not all Americans are certified electricians — the average person probably can't tell if his or her toaster has faulty wiring. But the Consumer Products Safety Commission does employ experts who can test toasters and make sure they won't burn your

house down.

The reality is that when the Consumer Products Safety Commission cracks down on such a dangerous product, the only companies that are hurt are those selling toasters that burst into flames. Responsible appliance companies that manufacture safe products aren't hurt in the least. In fact, the knowledge that a consumer

Please see page 19

Beware of this new property tax scam

Be careful of companies with official-sound names offering to help you reduce your property taxes for a fee. There is no need to pay for such services. Misleading mailers can look like official government agency

documents. The mailers seek to trick you into sending them money to lower your property taxes. They also use addresses like "Regional Processing Center" to make you think the mail is coming from a government agency. A recent mailing reported to the Oregon Department of Justice includes the misleadingly official-sounds title: "2010 Property Tax Reduction Form."

Sometimes, mailers threaten to impose a late fee if you don't send them money by a certain date.

Don't be fooled. Government agencies don't charge for tax reassessment — it's free. If your property has declined in value and you think your property tax is incorrect, you can request a review of your property from your local tax assessor. For more information, contact your county tax assessor's office.

What you can do to avoid becoming a victim:

- Don't pay money for something you did not ask for.

· Contact your county assessor's office directly, don't pay for a middleman.

Anyone who believes they have been approached by a scammer should call the Oregon Department of Justice Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or go to the Department's Web site: www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov. To stay informed about scams, sign up for the Scam Alert Network at: <http://www.doj.state.or.us/financial/fraud/scamalertnetwork.shtml>

Attorney General John Kroger recently unveiled a new feature called Be Informed, which allows consumers to look up complaints about businesses: www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov/beinformed.

Library to hold talk about cities

From page 7

15 million inhabitants?

Come and share your thoughts and ideas on the subject at this free conversation with photojournalist and Fulbright Scholar Geoffrey Hiller.

This program is presented by The Oregon Humanities Conversation Project.

Wauna reports on annual meeting

From page 4

a member of a federally insured credit union.

Blumberg reported that employees at Wauna Federal Credit Union have been working hard to provide new and improved products and services. Credit union members asked for Shared Branching and, in 2009, that was provided, allowing members to make transactions to their accounts at Wauna Federal Credit Union from all over the nation and in other parts of the world. The Vernonia Branch ATM was upgraded to the latest technology, and ATMs in Clatskanie, St Helens, and Astoria were modified to accept deposits. Wauna Federal Credit Union is working to develop a partnership with lo-

cal auto dealers to make it more convenient for members to purchase an automobile and finance the purchase through the Credit Union, while still at the dealership. The mortgage program was expanded to include loans on residential home purchases.

The focus in 2010 will be adding branch locations for added convenience to every one in Clatsop and Columbia Counties. The East Astoria Branch will open as an in-store branch within Safeway Retail Store, in the third quarter of 2010. The Scappoose Branch is scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of 2010, in the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified or green building in Columbia County.

Wauna Federal Credit Union is headquartered in Clatskanie, and has branches in Astoria, Clatskanie, St Helens, Vernonia and Warrenton. Branches are coming soon in Scappoose and East Astoria. Everyone in Clatsop or Columbia counties is eligible for membership. For more information, call the toll free number 1.800.773.3236.



Creatures & Vernonia Florist

Pet Supplies & Grooming
(503-429-PETS (7387))
www.creaturespetshop.com

Plants ~ Antiques ~ balloons ~ Handmade Crafts
Stuffed Toys ~ Greeting Cards & More
(503) 429-2000
www.vernoniaflorist.com

OPEN Mon-Sat 10-6
736 Bridge St. Vernonia

Family Owned & Operated
Superior Customer Service

Mariolino's



Happy Easter!

BECAUSE OF YOUR REQUESTS

WE ARE NOW SERVING PRIME RIB
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS

721 Madison Ave., Vernonia • 503-429-5018