

# Vernonia Eagle

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1974

## Rep. Magruder Announces Regional Government Study

State Representative Dick Magruder announced today the appointment of a committee to study the alternatives for Columbia County regarding regional government. Recently a great deal of controversy has surrounded the county's involvement in CRAG (Columbia Regional Association of Governments). Local officials met with Robert Logan, Governor McCall's planning director, and discussed the possible membership of Columbia County in District 1 (Clatsop and Tillamook). Logan asked Representative Magruder to appoint a group to hold hearings throughout the county and report its findings or suggestions to the Governor.

The following county residents have been asked to serve by Magruder: Fred Foshaug, Deer Island, Chairman; Bob Lucas, Rainier; Jim Morton, Clatskanie; Art Steele, Clatskanie; Frank Corsiliga, St. Helens; Herb Clifford, Clatskanie; Frank Deckebach, Vernonia; Howard Jones, Birkenfeld; Agnes Peterson, Goble; Jim Litherland, St. Helens; June Simmons, Scappoose; Mike Crouse, St. Helens; Robert Johnson, Scappoose; Borgney Corbett, Rainier; Clark Merwin, Columbia City; and Dave Banta, Vernonia.

Magruder states, "Although the legislature has twice saved Columbia County from mandatory CRAG membership we must evaluate alternatives." Possibilities for Columbia County include:

- 1. No regional involvement
- 2. Voluntary or mandatory

## Baseball Sign-Up

The Vernonia Baseball Association will hold sign-up day Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Boys, between the ages of 8 years and 13 years of age, who are interested in enjoying summer baseball, are asked to attend the meet at the Vernonia High School football field and parents are requested to accompany the boys. A \$3 sign-up fee to cover the cost of insurance will be required.

## Boo, Cheer, Hiss And Enjoy The Melodrama This Weekend

Take one frail, beautiful and virtuous heroine; add a strong manly, handsome hero and you have a love story. Stir in a bewhiskered and suave but evil villain aided by a sultry dark-eyed villainess and you have a melodrama just like the one that will be presented on the stage of the Pauper's Playhouse Friday, May 3, Saturday, May 4, with a special Sunday matinee slated for May 5.

Entitled "Little Nell, The Orphan Girl or A Fight For A Woman's Honor" this fourth annual production offers a variety of emotions from laughter to tears. In the tradition of the 1800's patrons of the theatre are encouraged to cheer, boo, hiss and, in general, to participate in the thrilling tale as it unfolds behind the footlights under the direction of Chris Boyle.

The Pauper's Playhouse, located in the Washington Grade School, opens its doors at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 3-4 with curtain time slated for 8 p.m. Inside the playhouse, several mini-shops will be open for the enjoyment of those attending. These include the Sweet Shoppe featuring homemade cakes, breads, rolls, jams, jellies and a variety of candy. There is also the Country Store which has a wide selection of hand-crafted articles from tote painting to place mats, dolls and aprons, patchwork articles; in fact just about everything imaginable. There is also an antique display located in this area. For flower lovers there is the Flower Cart where small plants and some cut flower wristlets may be

Refreshments will be sold during the performance and patrons are encouraged to enjoy themselves in the grand manner of the "good old days."



THE GENTLEMAN looks shocked at the attention of all those pretty girls and mother can't believe her eyes but it's all pretend. Those pictured above are just part of the cast of the fourth annual opening of the Pauper's Playhouse in Vernonia where this year's melodrama will be "Little Nell, The Orphan Girl or A Fight For A Woman's Honor." The show will be presented in Vernonia May 3 and 4 at 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee May 5 at 2 p.m. in the Washington Grade School. The troupe will also stage a show May 18 at 8 p.m. in St. Helens.

## I.E.D. Levy Up For Vote May 7

The I.E.D. Equalization Levy to be voted on May 7 at the annual school election is considered by many to be a plus for residents of School District 47J. The District will receive \$314,317.46 offset against its levy of \$570,055.00 if the equalization levy is approved. Stated another way, the local district receives \$1.76 for every \$1.00 it pays into the fund.

Local school officials are hoping that district voters will approve the measure by a very favorable majority because the district is a receiving district, as are St. Helens and Scappoose which means funds are allotted to the districts to provide adequate education curriculum and materials equal to those in richer districts.

## Students Chosen For Music In May

Forest Grove, Oregon—More than 580 outstanding high school musicians from the Pacific Northwest will participate in the 26th annual Pacific University "Music in May" Festival Concert on May 18 at 8 p.m. in the university gymnasium including two from Vernonia. Selected from over 2,000 applications the 580 finalists will live on campus for three days taking part in extensive rehearsals culminating in the Festival Concert.

Selected to participate in the "Music in May" Festival from Vernonia High School are Becky Curl, Alto Sax I; and Dewey Conroy, Bass II. Their band director is War Nelson.

Distinguished conductors for the 1974 festival program will be Dr. Nicholas Valenziano, Director of Instrumental Music at the University of Illinois at Chicago, band; James Dixon, Professor of Music at the University of Iowa, orchestra; Dr. William Scales, Associate Professor of Music and Coordinator of Vocal Activities at Pacific University, chorus.

## Preparation Of Plant Site Set

Niedermeier - Martin Co. Representatives and the commissioners of the Port of St. Helens have announced that preliminary negotiations have been concluded with Niedermeier-Martin Company, a diversified forest products firm based in Portland, to lease the former site of the Pope and Talbot creosoting plant.

On the 43-acre waterfront site, located between the existing Boise-Cascade Corp. and Kaiser Gypsum plants, Niedermeier-Martin Company plans to install a complete new pressure creosoting facility, with operations to commence fourth quarter 1974.

The site is regarded as a particularly desirable one for a treating plant of this type, being served by BN Rails, river barges and trucks. The original wood preserving plant located on the site operated successfully for more than 40 years, until the physical equipment became obsolete and was dismantled in 1959.

Initial employment at the new plant is expected to be 20. Site preparation is scheduled to begin during May.

## Old Time Atmosphere Set For Playhouse Weekend

Vernonia will have a "good old days" atmosphere this weekend as merchants and businesses fill windows with old time displays and many dress in keeping with the theme set by the Pauper's Playhouse melodrama of the "gay nineties" era.

And to further enhance the idea, businesses throughout Vernonia have joined together in a special page of advertising featuring many bargains, much fun and designed to serve as a souvenir of the playhouse weekend and the fun of the past. The special section will be included in this week's edition of the Vernonia Eagle and will also have pictures of the Pauper's Playhouse cast. It is just one of the many services provided by Vernonia businesses for the convenience and enjoyment of the community.

As the businesses join into the fun, they hope that residents of Vernonia will also dress for the weekend in appropriate olden days styles. Costumes need be nothing more elaborate than a long skirt and high necked blouse for ladies while gentlemen will surely look the part with the addition of a hat (remember those?) and a tie.

With the many visitors expected in the area for the playhouse production, it should be a walk into another time where people were more genteel and polite although today's world may find them quaint.

Many hope that by joining together in this special weekend celebration that it will become an annual affair bringing fun and a change of pace to the busy lives of all who live here, and with this in mind, residents are urged to do their part in making this event a very special one as the many businesses have tried to do through their participation.

## VERNONIA WEATHER

As gathered from the weather station located at the Vernonia water plant.

Weather in Vernonia showed variety during the week of April 23-30 with a high temperature of 71 degrees recorded April 30 and a low of 38 degrees on several days. It rained, with maximum precipitation set at .31 inches, April 24; on April 25 it hailed for several minutes; and occasionally the area was treated to a spot of sunshine, a pleasant change of pace.

## Four Vie For District 47J Board Position

The annual school election this year is different from procedures noted by many persons in previous times, although the issues remain the same.

School District 47J will be requesting that its local levy of \$570,055 over the 6 percent limitation be approved and will elect one candidate for a four-year term to position No. 2. Candidates for the position are Howard K. Hopkins, James Lucas, Maxine Medges, and Kenneth E. Sutherland.

The difference comes this year in that the election will be on Tuesday, May 7, instead of Monday and that voters will be voting in their local precincts instead of just at the school as in previous years.

The Columbia County Clerk is responsible for all district elections which are being held on May 7, 1974.

Friends and relatives of servicemen are requested to remind service people to apply as soon as possible for their absentee ballots for the primary election.

Most military outfits have what is called a voting officer who will supply the serviceman with a "postcard application for absentee ballot, Standard Form 76", which when sent to the county clerk, makes the serviceman eligible to vote in all countywide and special districts elections where applicable, for that year.

Because of the length of time required to send ballots to servicemen, allow them time to vote and return the ballots, by 8 p.m. May 28, a timely reminder from home might help a serviceman exercise his right to vote.

Voters in the district will vote as follows:

- Mist, North and South precincts - Mist School gym
- Vernonia No. 1 - West Oregon Electric
- Vernonia No. 2 - Vernonia Grange
- Vernonia No. 3 - Washington Grade School
- Vernonia No. 4 - Fire Hall
- Vernonia No. 5 - School District 47J Administrative Building.

Residents of the School District living in Washington County will vote at Manning School in Manning, Oregon.



IT WAS a good turnout for the Columbia County Central Democratic Committee dinner last week as almost 100 persons attended the affair including many of the candidates for the Democratic primaries. Also attending was Mel Gregory, who was introduced as a "Daniel going into the Lion's Den." Gregory is a Republican candidate.

## Thurs. Dinner Well Attended By Democrats

Approximately 100 attended the Columbia County Democratic Central Committee dinner Thursday, April 25 at the Village Inn in St. Helens where they enjoyed a mingling of ideas and a roast beef dinner.

Following a gathering in the hospitality room, the group adjourned to the Banquet room where Reta Kerry, chairman of the Columbia County Democratic Central Committee and secretary to State Representative Dick Magruder, gave the invocation followed by the flag salute. She then introduced Caroline Wilkens, State Chairman, commenting that Ms. Wilkens had been most instrumental in stabilizing the party financially.

Then with a wry sense of humor Mrs. Wilkens mentioned the fact that State Rep. Magruder had been fishing, and had a salmon which she requested he come forward to display. Magruder complied making a few brief comments on the subject. It was then explained that a wager had been made with a western state as to which state democratic party could raise the most political funds and since Oregon had lost the salmon would belong to the state which had beaten them in political fund raising.

This bit of whimsy was followed by introducing the many candidates, who had appeared to meet those attending the dinner. All the candidates had been asked not to speak but to merely stand up as their names were called.

Present to represent the Democratic ticket were retired senator, Wayne Morse, State Senator William Holstrom, State Representative Phil McAlmond, Ralph Bunch, Max Hammett, Bob Johnson, Earl M. (Ozzie) Ray, Tom Tennant, Ernest Thompson, Ralph Wiser II, Cleo Horn, Commissioner Jay Ahlborn, with State Representative Les AuCoin represented by Jerry and Clyde Doctor, and State Senator Betty Roberts candidate for governor, represented by Bev Steffins and Rosemary Donagan.

Following the introductions Mrs. Wilkens said, "...Columbia County has a marvelous Democratic demonstration," citing the fact that Columbia County was the second highest in registered Democrats as she added, "...you...always come through; electing Democrats in November."

She concluded, "after the primaries, let us close ranks and once more elect Democrats in November."

Reta Kerry then took the floor, thanking Mrs. Wilkens for her comments then once more called State Rep. Magruder to the head table, along with retiring sheriff Roy Wilburn, where Magruder presented the sheriff with a gavel, saying "...thank you for your service to the county."

Dinner over, the candidates introduced, those attending retired to enjoy some very interesting conversation prior to leaving.

## 26 Certified Unfit Drivers

Twenty-six Oregon drivers have been certified to county district attorneys for prosecution as habitual traffic offenders, according to Chester W. Ott, Administrator of the Motor Vehicles Division.



CAROLINE WILKINS was credited with getting the Columbia County Democratic Party on a stable financial basis. Above she tells of her wager with other western state's Democratic parties that Oregon could raise the most financial backing for the party, but losing to one state cost her one salmon.



RETIRED senator, Wayne Morse was on hand to greet and talk with those attending the dinner given by the Columbia County Central Democratic Committee April 25.

## Local Groups Plan Area Cleanup Day

Columbia County Comprehensive Health Planning, in conjunction with the Columbia County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, has announced plans for a county-wide spring cleanup project on June 1, 1974.

Present preliminary plans call for dealing with nearly every type of solid waste. However, emphasis will be placed on dealing with waste which is reusable or recyclable. Plans also include having personnel available on these days to receive complaints regarding unsightly or unhealthy waste accumulations.

It is hoped that each major city in the county will have a center around which the cleanup activities will focus. Anyone desiring to participate in a project of this type is encouraged to contact one of the co-chairpersons for the project, Mrs. Janet Livingston at 397-1784 or 397-4914, or Harold Nelson at 397-1339 or 397-2225.

## Conference For Aged Scheduled May 16

A Regional Conference for the elderly, sponsored by the Oregon State Council for Senior Citizens, will be held on Thursday, May 16, in West Linn. The meeting, set for 9:30 a.m. until noon, will cover legislation news of interest to seniors on a state level.

A registration fee of \$1 will cover coffee and doughnuts, to be served at the meeting site, the West Linn Inn. All interested persons are welcome to attend the conference. For further information, please contact the Columbia County Council for Senior Citizens at 397-4000.

## Abrahamson New Chairman

Richard Abrahamson was elected Chairman of the Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District during last Wednesday April 17 board meeting in the St. Helens SCS office in St. Helens. Other officers elected were Larry O'Black, Vice-Chairman; Bill Kessi, Secretary and Russel Carver, Treasurer.

Bill Kessi reported on the OACD sponsored Service Center meeting that he attended in Beaverton.

Verald Mc Brides resignation was accepted. Mark Heckman was appointed to finish Verald Mc Brides term.

A copy of the district budget was sent in to State Committee. The district will be assisting with the Annual Forestry Field Day for Columbia County 7th grade students which is scheduled for May 6 and 7 at Camp Wilkerson. The Columbia County outdoor school for 6th graders will be held at Camp Wilkerson on May 9 and 10.

The following applications were approved for cooperators: Blanda Gibford Moyer, Clayburn Modrow-Rainier, Shoreline Rock Products-Scappoose, and Robert Crawford, Rainier.

## Field Trip Planned By 4-H Members Sat.

The geology of the Columbia River Gorge will be studied by 4-H Geology members during a field trip on Saturday, May 11, according to Robert H. Stevely, Extension Agent.

Dave Korwin, Geology instructor at Mt. Hood Community College, will serve as tour leader.