

WOEC Current News and Notes From the Co-op: Celebrate Cooperative Month With Us

By Sarah Rossi

Every October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all kinds have celebrated Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses. Cooperatives throughout North America will celebrate their successes and heritage with common themes throughout October. The celebration lasted even longer this year, because the United Nations sanctioned 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives.

One of the biggest differences is that electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That's why those who receive electric service from us are called members, not customers. The need for access to electrical service in rural areas is what created West Oregon Electric

Cooperative.

Members maintain democratic control of our co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors. Every August the annual meeting mailing is sent out to members with the ballot to vote for the directors that have been nominated for the District seats that are up that year, and the official results are announced at our annual meeting. Another difference is that our co-op members receive special benefits through programs like our WOEC Co-op Connections Card and our energy assistance program "Care to Share". One principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we have a special responsibility to support the areas in which our members live and work. We sponsor local school activities, provide scholarships, and sponsor the Co-

lumbia County Rider Columbia County Fair Senior Day trip.

Our economy still has critical hurdles to overcome, so you may not feel like celebrating Co-op month at all. But when our faith in big institutions has been shaken, it's the perfect time to remember what we've already accomplished locally, all with a little cooperation.

We've faced tough times before; 75 years ago our area didn't have electricity. Young folks were leaving en masse to find a brighter future in urban areas, and rural America was left in the dark. But instead of waiting for someone else to fix our problem, we turned to each other. We built our own utility, and we powered our future.

By our very nature, not-for-profit, local, member-owned and governed cooperatives like West Oregon Electric

empower members to improve their lives. And while bringing electricity to rural Oregon was a big first step, you, as our members, certainly didn't stop there. Overall, co-ops are more accessible than other types of businesses. We still answer the phone personally, have time to meet with our members, and genuinely care about our members. We give our members a voice, and we are local, living and working alongside those we serve.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, we would like to invite you to join us on Wednesday, October 31st for candy and fun at our WOEC office. We want you to continue to stay involved as we build a better future together. Thank you for being a WOEC member!

Whooping Cough Vaccine Available in Columbia County

To help with the rising numbers of whooping cough cases this year, Public Health has received a vaccine targeted at adults with no medical insurance between the ages of 19 and 64.

"This is a one-time adult booster," said Mary Altenhein, immunization coordinator for the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. She said adults who expect to have close contact with a baby younger than a year should be immunized to protect the child. Pertussis is more severe in children than adults.

By protecting themselves, older children, parents and grandparents can form a "cocoon of protection" around the babies in their lives that may be too young to be fully protected by vaccine.

The Public Health Foundation offers immunizations on a sliding fee scale. Call 503-397-4651 ext

2023 to make an appointment. Hours are 8:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Friday.


Nine cases of whooping cough have been reported in Columbia County this year. Oregon has 679 cases, over twice as many as reported last year. Washington State has 4,007 cases, nearly 10 times the number reported this time last year.

"Prevention is the best defense against this disease," said Karen Ladd, Columbia County Public Health Administrator. "Not being current on vaccinations clearly puts people at risk of contracting pertussis."
C h i l d r e n

should see their doctors if they have a cough longer than two weeks," said Altenhein. Whooping cough starts with a runny nose, sneezing, cough and fever. The cough worsens, frequently comes in fits, and can last six weeks or longer. In youngsters, a whooping sound can follow coughing fits as they try to catch their breath; sometimes infants grow blue in the face from

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PUBLIC SAFETY CONTACT INFORMATION

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: CEPA EXPO
(Columbia Emergency Planning Association) July 2010
IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST

COLUMBIA 911	Columbia River Fire	503-397-2990
COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT	Mist Birkenfeld Fire	503-755-2710
Dispatch 503-397-1521 or 800-696-7795	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	503-397-2636
OTHER DISPATCH CENTERS	Scappoose Fire	503-543-5026
BOEC (Multnomah Co.) 503-760-6911	Vernonia Fire	503-429-8252
Clatsop Co. 503-325-4411	Vernonia EMS	503-429-4600
Clackamas Co. 503-655-8211	UTILITIES	
Cowlitz Co. (Longview) 360-577-3098	Clatskanie PUD	503-728-2163
Tillamook Co. 503-815-1911	Columbia River PUD	503-397-1844
WCCCA (Washington Co.) 503-629-0111	NW Natural Gas	800-544-1795
WSP (Wash State Patrol) 360-449-7950	West Oregon Electric	800-777-1276
OSP (Oregon State Police) 503-397-3131		503-429-3021
COUNTY AGENCIES	HOSPITALS	
Animal Control 503-397-3935	Emanuel	503-413-2200
CENT (Narcotics Team) 503-397-1167	Good Samaritan	503-413-7711
or 866-397-1167	Kaiser Sunnyside	503-652-2880
Colum. Co. Emerg. Mngmt 503-366-3905	OHSU	503-494-8311
Colum. Co. Road Dept. 503-397-5090	Poison Control	800-452-7165
DMV - St. Helens 503-397-3515	Portland Adventist	503-251-6155
Colum. Co. Juvenile Dept. 503-397-0275	Providence	503-215-1111
Colum. Co. Mental Health 503-397-2511	St. Johns - Longview	360-636-4818
or 800-294-5211	St. Vincent	503-216-1234
Colum. Co. Parole & Prob. 503-397-6253	Tuality - Forest Grove	503-357-2173
Colum. Co. Public Health 503-397-4651	Tuality - Hillsboro	503-681-1111
Women's Resource Center 503-397-6161	VA Hospital	503-220-8262
SCF (Serv.to Child & Fam) 503-397-3292	OTHER MEDICAL RESOURCES	
COURTS	Legacy Clinic - St. Helens	503-397-0471
Colum. Co. Circuit Court 503-397-0157	OHSU - Scappoose Ofc.	503-543-3181
Colum. Co. District Court 503-397-2327x316	Urgent Care - St. Helens	503-397-7119
Clatskanie Justice Court 503-728-3011	PUBLIC WORKS	
Columbia City Muni Court 503-397-4010	Clatskanie Public Works	503-728-2622
Rainier Muni Court 503-556-3200	Columbia City Public Works	503-366-0454
St. Helens Muni Court 503-397-6272	Scappoose Public Works	503-543-7184
Scappoose Muni Court 503-543-7146 x225	St. Helens Public Works	503-397-3532
Vernonia Justice Court 503-429-2441	Rainier Public Works	503-556-9144
POLICE DEPARTMENTS	Vernonia Public Works	503-429-6921
Clatskanie PD 503-728-2145	OTHER	
Columbia City PD 503-397-4010	National Weather Service	503-261-9246
OSP 503-397-3131	ODOT	877-877-4866 dispatch
Rainier PD 503-556-3644	P&W Railroad	800-800-2203 malfunctions
Scappoose PD 503-543-3114	Red Cross	503-284-1234
St. Helens PD 503-397-3333	Child Abuse Hotline	800-302-0077
Vernonia PD 503-429-7335	Humane Society	503-397-4353
Columbia Co. Sheriff 503-366-4611	ROAD CONDITIONS	
Columbia Co. Jail 503-366-4630 ext. 0	Oregon 511 or	800-977-6368 inside OR
FIRE DEPARTMENTS		503-588-2941 outside OR
Clatskanie Fire 503-728-2025	Washington	800-695-7623
	From a Cell Phone:	511