

WOEC Current

News and Notes From the Co-op: Energy Assistance Funds / Santa is Coming to WOEC

By Sarah Rossi

Santa Claus might be busy checking his list and keeping the elves busy at his workshop, but he is taking time again this year to visit the West Oregon Electric Co-op office to help raise funds for our Care to Share energy assistance program. Santa will be available for keepsake



photographs on December 6th, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM and the 7th and 8th from 9:00 AM to noon and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the WOEC office. Be sure to bring the kids in to see Santa and create

a lasting memory with the keepsake photographs.

All proceeds raised from the sale of photographs will go directly to help families in the Co-op service area who need assistance with their electric bills. These special photos make great gifts. Along with the regular 4x6 photo, there are great

package deals with 8x10, 5x7, and wallet size photographs available for very reasonable prices of \$5, \$10, & \$15. For more information call the WOEC office at 503-429-3021 and ask for Sarah or

Kellie. Please help us make our energy assistance fundraiser a success so that we may help our local co-op members.

If you find yourself in a difficult situation and are unable to pay your electric bill, please call the WOEC office before you get disconnected for non-pay to prevent having to pay additional fees. We would like to help by making payment arrangements with you, and discussing options for energy assistance.

Oregon Heat, St. Vincent De Paul, and WOEC's Care to Share energy assistance funds are available to qualifying members. If you are in need of assistance paying your electric bill, please call Mary who administers these funds at 503-366-8014.

If you are on a fixed or limited income and need assistance paying your electric bill, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) may be

able to help. LIEAP funds are used to help pay electric, oil, wood, natural gas or propane heating bills. Eligibility is based on the number of people and total gross income within a household. Gross income is money from all sources before taxes and other deductions. To qualify, a household must meet federal income guidelines.

A list of utilities, state and local social service agencies and community and charitable organizations and other resources are on the Department of Energy's web site at www.oregon.gov/energy, or call 1-800-221-8035.

To learn more about LIEAP or to schedule an appointment, call one of these numbers:

- Columbia County- -----503-397-4951
- Clatsop County-----503-325-1400
- Washington County----503-648-6646
- Yamhill County-----503-472-0457

The Thousand Foot Mission

If your heart is burdened for helping out a local mission, then opportunity is knocking!

The Vernonia Seventh - Day Adventist Church has celebrated 75 years of serving their beloved community.

Whether we are in the community passing out water to a parade watcher at Jamboree, and making children smile with a grab bag from the fishing pond or helping those in need showing Christ's love. We embrace our community and look for ways to serve them.

So now opportunity is knocking at your door.

It all began in 1935 in an old deserted store on Bridge Street in downtown Vernonia, where a small group of Christians gathered to worship and listen to a sermon preached by Pastor Ray Bagley. The church members saw a need for a church and began the provisions for building it. It was then that the ladies came together to make and sell fudge to raise money.

The lumber was donated by Mr. Bennett, who at that time owned and operated the third largest mill in the world; The Oregon - American Sawmill.

The church was completed in 1936. It was a state of the art building at that time with its 10 foot ceilings, a bell tower and a wood burning stove to

maintain a warm, comfortable environment.

Now, 75 years later, our little church building we've grown to love is in need of major repair. The cedar logs that were placed as a foundation have decomposed and with all the efforts



made by the church members throughout the years to repair this foundation piece by piece, there is needed still a major overhaul. There is also a need to replace the siding on the outside of the building as well as the old windows, carpets, doors and interior walls.

The members of the Vernonia Seventh- Day Adventist Church would love the opportunity to continue serving their much loved community and

the Oregon Conference. With the need to replace the foundation also came the opportunity to add an additional story; which would give an extra 1,000 square feet to our building. This extra space would allow for fellowship meals (currently held almost weekly at one member's house), social gatherings and community outreach such as bible study groups, nutrition education classes and Vacation Bible School.

The overall costs of this project will be around \$100,000 and we cannot raise this money alone. The members have lots of fund-raising projects in process and an anonymous donor is willing to match any funds raised by the end of December up to \$10,000.

The Church will be holding a public auction on Saturday evening, December 1st with dinner for purchase to be held at the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park immediately following the parade and tree lighting ceremony.

Please consider supporting a local cause and help us continue to serve and share in God's love.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation in support of this cause, please contact Jenny Williams at 503.429.0462 or email address: arbonebyjenny@hotmail.com

Medicare Enrollees Have Choices

It's Medicare Open Enrollment season from October 15 through December 7. Everyone on Medicare should evaluate their coverage to see if their current plan still is the best and most cost effective.

One way to do this is to go to www.medicare.gov and click on "Find health and drug plans." Another is to contact Columbia County SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) volunteers at 503-846-3094 to schedule a one on one meeting. A third is to attend a SHIBA walk-in event at the Scappoose Senior Center, every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Thanksgiving week the open house will be on Friday.

Even if you're satisfied with your medical coverage, everyone who takes more than a few prescription drugs – or even just one that's expensive – should run their drug list through www.medicare.gov to check costs and coverage for next year. If you don't have internet access, or find the process too hard, SHIBA volunteers can do this for you.

SHIBA volunteers are trained by the state to help people with Medicare insurance questions and issues. They do not recommend particular programs, but help people sort through alternatives to find the best fit for their situation. Their help is free and unbiased.

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