

Randy Carlton Named Oregon EMT-Basic of the Year

Metro West Ambulance is proud to announce that Randy Carlton, EMT and Shawn Wood, Paramedic will be honored at the Oregon EMS Awards on Friday, October 4 in Bend, Oregon.

individual at each of the four levels of emergency responders-First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and EMT-Paramedic who are exemplary at their patient care and their dedication to their community.



These two dedicated EMS providers have been selected from nominations across the state to receive these awards. The EMS Provider of the Year recognizes one outstanding

Randy Carlton will be receiving the EMT-Basic of the Year Award. Randy hails from rural Vernonia, Oregon. Randy and his family moved

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Witt Announces Candidacy at Vernonia Schools

State Representative Brad Witt has announced he will run for a sixth term in House District 31 in the Oregon State Legislature..

Witt, a Democrat from Clatskanie, made the announcement at the Vernonia Schools on September 24, 2013.

"I am very pleased and proud to have been your representative for the past five terms and look forward to being able to pursue and continue the agenda that we have only begun," said Witt. "I am running to become a voice and an advocate of those things that I believe will make a positive difference in the everyday lives of my constituents and Oregonians across our state."

A press release announcing the event stated, "The event is being held at the [Vernonia] school to highlight Representative Witt's continued commitment to investing in our children to build a strong economy for the future."

Working as a team with Sen. Betsy Johnson, Rep. Witt helped secure the final \$4 million in funding that enabled the Vernonia School construction project to move forward.

The original school was devastated by severe floods in 2007 and construction of the new school was completed during



the summer of 2012.

Witt was introduced by Vernonia School Board President Bill Langmaid.

"It feels great to be back here in Vernonia today," said Witt. "Communities like this one are what keep me going. I am continually motivated by the hard working families I know in towns like Vernonia who are often working two, and sometimes three jobs, to make a better life for their children."

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WOEC Board Approves Rate Hike

The Board of Directors for West Oregon Electric Cooperative (WOEC) has approved a 14% rate hike that took effect on October 1, 2013.

The increase, that includes a \$2.00 increase to the base rate charge, was voted on by the Board following a public meeting to con-

sider the proposed rate increase on Tuesday September 17, 2013.

The public meeting was held in the WOEC Boardroom, which was filled to capacity and spilled over into the lobby of the new WOEC headquarters building. Co-op members were vocal in their disapproval of the rate hike and spoke for over ninety minutes, asking the Board and WOEC Management to avoid raising rates.

WOEC General Manager Marc Farmer opened the meeting and gave an explanation of why a rate hike is needed at this time. Farmer told the crowd that WOEC was receiving a wholesale power and transmission rate increase from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), their electric supplier. He also explained that the co-op has used up all their emergency reserve funds doing storm repair work in four major weather events in recent years. Because the reserves are depleted, the co-op has had to borrow money and now has debt that needs to be repaid. The rate hike would pay down the debt as well as build the reserve fund and protect the co-op in the event of another weather emergency.

Co-op members made numerous suggestions about ways the co-op might cut costs, asked questions about operations and the possibility of disbanding or breaking up the co-op and voiced concerns about the impact of a rate increase on local businesses, the local economy and local residents. No one spoke in favor of a rate increase.

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New Health Clinic is Making More Progress

By Scott Laird

There is more news to report on the progress of the new Vernonia Health Center facility which will be built as part of the Rose Avenue Project.

The Vernonia Health Board is scheduled to go in front of the Vernonia Planning Commission for the first time for a Public Hearing on Thursday October 17, 2013 at 7:00 PM. The

for a lot line adjustment so they have a clearly defined project on the Rose Avenue site.

"Our planning is going well," said Heather Lewis, spokesperson for the Health Board. "Our plan has our street improvement requirements, our parking requirements, how the utilities will be pulled into our building, and our own storm water storage collection. Our documents have been accepted by



Health Board is seeking approval of their site plan for construction of the new facility. The Planning Commission will consider the planned building exterior, vehicle access, parking lot and other improvements on the site. The Health Board will also ask

the city Building Department as complete and we're excited to be going before the Planning Commission and moving forward."

Lewis, who had been voluntarily assisting the Health Board with this project, was re-

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