

WEATHER REPORT
SEPTEMBER, 1998

DATE	TEMPERATURE		PRECIP. AMT.
	HI	LO	
1	97	45	--
2	91	43	--
3	86	46	--
4	87	42	--
5	83	40	--
6	80	39	--
7	86	42	--
8	80	48	--
9	64	33	--
10	68	35	--
11	75	42	--
12	78	44	--
13	79	40	--
14	79	41	--
15	80	38	--
16	87	44	--
17	78	45	--
18	71	49	.14
19	63	49	.45
20	63	44	.01
21	69	42	T
22	77	39	--
23	77	40	--
24	77	41	--
25	61	48	.11
26	58	42	.16
27	70	40	--
28	79	40	--
29	75	42	--
30	73	36	--

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Measurable precipitation in September totalled .87 inch.

Good news, some concerns at WOEC annual meeting

By Jim Buxton

Over 550 people voted this year, mostly by mail, in West Oregon Electric's annual election and by-law change process. Approximately 30 people, in addition to WOEC board members and employees, physically attended the meeting. The proposed by-law amendment to extend the possible annual meeting dates to include August, and to allow annual meetings to take place in areas of the service territory other than Vernonia, passed 484 to 75. The incumbent directors easily won their seats back, with Robert VanNatta from District 2 receiving all 59 votes cast; and Tom Budge of District 5 receiving 62 of the 64 votes cast in his area.

After the usual preliminaries of the flag salute, introductions, et cetera, brief reports were given by board President VanNatta, Financial Officer Royce Haggelstein and General Manager Russell Green. The messages were:

- It's been a good year
- The cost of power and maintenance expenses are reduced from 1996
- The balance of the short-term loan has been paid off
- The portion of the Coop that the members actually own has risen from 25 percent to 31 percent since 1996.

• At the end of last year, we had a \$400,000 short-term loan balance and essentially no bank balance; now we have \$400,000 in the bank and no loan balance.

These cheery messages were tempered by warnings that:

- The Coop easily spends \$50,000 per day to repair storm damage
- The (favorable) BPA contract expires in 2001
- The actions of the upcoming legislature are unknown.

Present actions and future Coop goals are:

- Setting financial reserves aside to flatten out peaks and valleys
- Improving in-house engineering capabilities
- Recognizing the need for and acting to "improve service to meet the changing lifestyles of the members"
- Keeping eyes open and planning for the future.

Youth Energy Camp Delegates Randee Parker of Vernonia High School and Dewey Foster of Jewell High School each gave a presentation about their experiences at the camp.

The guest speaker was Jerrie Leone of the Public Power Council. In her talk, she mostly pointed to the expense and the difficulties of mitigating the

problem of the declining salmon population in the Columbia River system.

During the question and answer period, more discussion took place on the salmon problem as it relates to electric generation facilities and the rate-paying public. In response to another question, it became obvious that the Year 2000 Problem (Y2K) is being taken very seriously by WOEC and BPA. They intend that all goes well, but realize that no matter

what they do, unexpected glitches can occur.

As usual, door prizes were given out. Since the institution of vote-by-mail far fewer people have been attending the Annual Meetings, letting almost all those attending this year to walk away with a prize. Those attending had one additional treat: a delicious and attractive luncheon catered by the folks who have taken over the Sunnyside Restaurant and deli near Vernonia.

County gets USDA housing grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its multi-family housing programs in Oregon, awarded \$162,310 in housing preservation grants to public organizations in Columbia, Linn and Deschutes counties.

The Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants help very low and low income homeowners repair their homes. The grants can also be used to repair rental property, if the owners agree to make the units available to low and very-low income families.

"This program provides modest grants and in some cases loans to help cover the cost of preventive maintenance and weatherization for mostly elderly homeowners," said Jill Davis, multi-family housing

program director in Oregon for USDA Rural Development. "While the total amount may not seem significant, to these homeowners it may mean the difference in having a safe, and warm home."

In Columbia County, Community Action Team received \$62,310 to help qualified owners repair and weatherize homes. In Linn County, The Community Services Consortium in Corvallis was awarded \$50,000 to help six households in the City of Harrisburg weatherize and repair their homes. In Deschutes County, the Central Oregon Community action Network in Redmond was awarded \$50,000 to help very low income households in the Redmond Fire District whose dwellings are in need of repair or weatherization.

Huser elected by statewide group

Elizabeth (Betty) Huser, Columbia County Clerk, was elected Secretary of the Oregon Association of County Clerks at their 86th Annual Conference held recently in Jackson County.

Huser has served as Columbia County Clerk since 1989.

The Oregon Association of County Clerks is a professional organization for county clerks, elections directors and support staff. The organization pro-

vides leadership and training for recording and election procedures. The OACC is also a lobbying body to the Oregon Legislature for recording and election issues.

Other officers elected were: President, R. Nellie Bogue-Hibbert, Union County Clerk; 1st Vice-President, Georgette Brown, Josephine County Clerk; 2nd Vice-President, Dana Jenkins, Lincoln County Clerk; Treasurer, Karen LeBreton, Wasco County Clerk.

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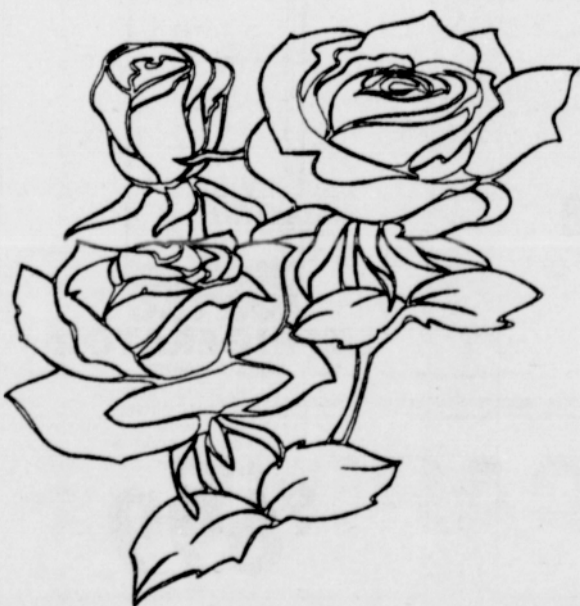
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Eligibility Guidelines:

Do you have insurance available?

You're eligible if you have no insurance, Medicaid, private insurance with limited coverage or private insurance with deductible not met.

Are you age 40 or older?

Is your family income within the limit?

Family size 1, \$1,644 limit; Family size 2, \$2,210 limit; Family size 3, \$2,777; Family size 4, \$3,344; Family size 5, \$3,910; Family size 6, \$4,477.

In St. Helens:

Columbia County
Public Health,
397-4651
Carolyn McCarton,
397-0480

In Vernonia:

Vernonia Health Center,
429-9191

In Clatskanie:

Clatskanie Clinic,
728-4905

This program is funded by a grant from the centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program is administered by the Oregon Health Division.