

Hyde elected to vice-presidency of Oregon Counties organization

Columbia County Commissioner Anthony C. Hyde was elected second vice president of the Association of Oregon Counties earlier this month, at the organization's 95th annual conference in Eugene. Hyde will serve in the leadership post alongside Union County Commissioner Steve McClure, who was elected president of the Salem-based organization. AOC represents all of the 36 Oregon counties.

"Commissioner Hyde has been a tireless advocate for local government in Oregon," said McClure. "His efforts have helped counties throughout Oregon maintain cost-effective use of tax dollars, strengthen the quality of our state's workforce and support greater economic development."

The county officials will lead

a statewide effort in pursuit of six priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The priorities include a health improvement initiative; greater state support for prosecuting crimes; better support to counties for providing space for the state court system; a stable, sustainable Public Employees Retirement System; better preparation for the costs of natural disasters; and broadband, digital telecommunication that extends to all of Oregon.

In addition to electing leaders, conference attendees also heard addresses from U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, and U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio. All three federal lawmakers were crucial in the passage of "safety net" legislation, signed by President Clinton

in October, to stabilize federal timber receipt payments to counties and public schools near the levels they received a decade ago.

The five-day conference in-

cluded over 600 county officials, both elected and appointed, including assessors, clerks, commissioners, district attorneys, judges, sheriffs, surveyors and treasurers. Issues dis-

cussed ranged from supporting cultural and artistic assets in Oregon communities to implementing the recently enacted Ballot Measure 7.

Enrollment time near for U.S. environmental program

The USDA agencies in Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia Counties are now taking applications for the Fiscal Year 2001 USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The sign-up period ends on February 9, 2001.

EQIP is a cost-share assistance program approved by congress to assist agricultural producers in addressing natural resource concerns on their land. USDA will provide technical assistance to producers for the development of a conservation plan that includes con-

servation practices to protect the natural resources. EQIP contracts can range from five to 10 years long, depending on the time needed by the producer to complete the planned practices.

EQIP eligibility is determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The FSA office determines who is considered an agricultural producer. The Natural Resources Conservation Service assists the applicant in the development of an EQIP conservation plan to assist producers in compliance

with environmental laws such as non-profit source pollution abatement requirements; maximizes the environmental benefits per dollar expended; enhances local and state environmental improvement efforts.

Agricultural producers within these three counties who are interested in participating in the EQIP program in 2001 should contact the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service or the local Soil and Water Conservation District by February 9, 2001 to file an application.

Interested producers should contact the Farm Service Agency at 503-648-3014 or Columbia SWCD/Natural Resource Conservation Service in St. Helens at 503-397-4555 for completing the required application forms by the close of business on February 9, 2001.

Governor's proposed budget draws praise

Associated Oregon Industries (AOI) has announced pleasure with Governor John Kitzhaber's education budget, which provides increased funding for K-12 schools and also strives to encourage accountability and improved quality. His emphasis on preschool programs is particularly praiseworthy, the announcement said. As long-time advocates of Oregon Head Start, AOI strongly supports the Governor's plans to increase funding for early childhood education programs.

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Community Calendar

	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

VERNONIA		
Al-Anon	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	Noon, Lew's Place
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Girl Scouts	Thursdays	6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Narcotics Anonymous	Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 429-4074
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	4th Thursday	For location call 429-2401
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors	1st Thursday	For location call 429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Comm. Dev. Corp.	2nd Tuesday	Noon, City Hall
Vernonia Grange	2nd Friday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 429-5201
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	8:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	1st Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC
MIST-BIRKENFELD		
M-BRFPD Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st & 2nd Thurs.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st & 2nd Wed.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Rescue	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Wednesday	10:00 am, 755-2346 for info.
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Sundays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
BANKS		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Brown Derby
Citizen Participation Org.	3rd Monday, odd months	7:15 p.m., City Hall
Friends of the Library	1st Saturday	10:00 a.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Tri-City RFPD Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1)	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410