

# Property tax deferral programs have filing deadline of April 15

The Oregon Department of Revenue reminds taxpayers that April 15 is the filing deadline for the Disabled Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program and the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program. Applications and information are available by calling your county assessor's office.

Both deferral programs allow qualified taxpayers to defer payment of property taxes on their homes. The state pays the taxes to the county, maintains the account, and charges six percent simple interest, which is also deferred. Taxes are

owed when the taxpayer receiving the deferral dies, sells the property, ceases to live permanently on the property, or the property changes ownership.

To qualify for either program, the property must be the taxpayer's principal residence and must have a deed or recorded sales contract. Total household income must be less than \$32,000 for the year before application. Participants may remain on either program as long as their federal adjusted gross income does not exceed \$32,000. If a participant's in-

come exceeds the \$32,000 limit, part of the taxes still may be deferred. Participants can go in and out of the programs if their income changes.

In addition to meeting the income limitation and property ownership requirement, disabled persons must be receiving federal Social Security Dis-

ability benefits to qualify for the Disabled Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program; senior citizens must be 62 years old or older by April 15 to qualify for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program.

For more information, call the Department of Revenue's Tax Services line at 503-378-

4988 or 1-800-356-4222. For information in Spanish, call 503-945-8618. For TTY (hearing or speech impaired only), call 503-945-8617 or 1-800-886-7204. The TTY number is answered by machine only. A representative will return the call.

## Tax credits help for low income, working families

Thousands of Oregon families who worked last year will be eligible for federal and state tax credits that can reduce or eliminate their taxes.

The Federal government offers the Earned Income Credit (EIC) to working families. The EIC's value is based on income and family size and can be worth up to \$4,008. The Federal Additional Child Tax Credit is available to working families with children. Even if a family has no tax liability, they can get money back from these credits.

Oregon provides working families with two credits, a state Earned Income Credit equal to five percent of the federal EIC, and the Working Family Child

Care Credit, worth up to 40 percent of out-of-pocket child care expenses. While neither of the Oregon credits will give back more money than the family's state income tax liability, the families may still get money back from the state if taxes were withheld by their employer over the course of last year.

Free help preparing state and federal tax returns is available from AARP and IRS sponsored "Tax-Aide" sites throughout Oregon. Trained volunteers are available to answer questions, help do taxes and, in some locations, even file the taxes electronically ("e-file").

Low income families do not need to pay someone to do

their taxes. All they need to do is call 1-888-227-7669 and find the local Tax Aide site to get free assistance."

For questions about federal taxes or to find the location of a Tax-Aide site, contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. For questions about state taxes, contact the Oregon Department of Revenue at 1-800-356-4222.

## County Parks panel will hold meeting

The Columbia County Parks Advisory Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 13, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the Columbia County Parks Department office, 1054 Oregon Street in St. Helens.

### Leonetti's Pizza & Grill



**Valentine's Day Special**  
**Heart-Shaped Pizza \$14.50**  
 Your choice of 3 toppings.....

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 OPEN MON-SAT 11 - 9 • NOW OPEN SUNDAY 12 - 7  
 721 Madison Ave., Vernonia • 503-429-5018

# Community Calendar

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
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
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

### VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Ave./ 503-429-4000
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., Leonetti's Grill
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	Noon, Lew's Place
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-0188
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church
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		For location call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 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 Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 503-429-5201
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
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
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 Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 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	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.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 Mon day	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 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.