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# The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

April 18, 2002

## Roughing it...



## WOEC forms companies to develop new income

By Jim Buxton

In an effort to broaden the revenue base for West Oregon Electric Cooperative without losing its not-for-profit tax status, WOEC's board of directors voted to form a subsidiary company, West Oregon Services (WOS), at the March board meeting in Vernonia.

WOS, a holding company, has been formed to act as a buffer between WOEC and Columbia Broadband (CB), a for-profit company formed the same evening, but at a different meeting.

Columbia Broadband will be WOEC's NoaNet participant, conducting business as a telecommunications company

that provides high-speed Internet service using the excess capacity of Bonneville Power Administration's fiber optic cable network. The two companies were formed in separate meetings as required by law, with the help of Charles Fadeley, WOEC's attorney.

The boards of directors of both new companies will be composed of members of the current WOEC board. WOS received an initial funding of \$15,000 by selling 50 shares of stock to WOEC. CB received an initial funding of \$10,000 from WOS. Motions passed to establish bylaws, corporate seals, stock certificates and bank accounts for the two new

companies.

WOEC General Manager Russell Green announced that he had offered a position in CB to a person not named that evening. Eventual profits from the new enterprise are intended to offset costs at WOEC, thereby keeping electric rates in line and eventually lowering them.

At a subsequent meeting with the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce, Green said that no date can be given for when the broadband capability will reach Vernonia. It is dependent on several factors, primarily the route that NoaNet will have to follow in order to maintain enough income to add

## Saturday is the day to Make Vernonia Shine

Saturday, April 20 is the day to Make Vernonia Shine. Volunteers will start registering with Vernonia Pride at 9:00 a.m. at Providence Health Center. The day will end with a free lunch for everyone involved, at 1:00 p.m. in the Scout Cabin.

In addition to needing people to pick up trash, remove weeds, and plant shrubs and flowers, others are needed to help senior citizens with yard work, gutter cleaning, outside window washing, etc.

Two of the biggest projects involve blackberry removal and

hedge trimming. There is also a lot of barkdust that needs to be spread.

Tools needed include string trimmers, hedge trimmers, shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows and machetes or anything else that helps remove blackberry vines.

Vernonia residents may also take clean yard debris to the city public works yard.

Groups that want to work together on the same project may make arrangements to do so. For further information, call Donna Webb at 429-5201.

## Updates fill 47J agenda

After a workshop to interview three candidates – Tom Jones, Darrell Hamblet and Chris Collins – for the empty board position, the Vernonia School District board heard three presentations at their April 11 meeting. The board will fill the vacancy by appointment during a special meeting called for April 18.

Snowed out of their original

ly scheduled time in February, the district's recently completed training for the Intel "Teach to the Future" program gave a fascinating overview of how this program will impact students.

The board was entertained by a glimpse of "The Sixth Grade Play." Written by teachers Cathy Ward and Marilyn Pedersen, the play is a melodrama about the dastardly Sindley Whiplash's attempts to get the heroine's farm. Presented as a big screen TV movie with commercials that "come right into your living room" the play promises to be very entertaining. The play will be presented April 26 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1 for senior citizens and babies. Proceeds generate funds for sixth grade classes to attend the annual OMSI overnight field trip.

The high school equestrian team updated the board on their progress since forming two years ago under the guidance of volunteer coach Barb Carr. All of nine members of the team compete in individual and

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### Vernonia Spring Concert and Art Show

Wednesday, April 24  
Vernonia High School  
Library and Gym

6 pm Art Show 7 pm Music  
6-12 Grade Bands • Choir