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ALL TREES
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FALL HOURS: FRI-SAT 10-6 • 503-429-8200
12891 KEASEY RD, VERNONIA, 7 MILES OUT OF VERNONIA

The Health Habit

503-429-0501

Complete Co-Ed Gym Facility
Personal Training Available



Weight Loss/Gain • Wolff Tanning
Body Building • Nutritional Counseling
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OPEN: 5a-9p M-F • 5a-5p Sat • Closed Sunday
16720 Noakes Rd., Vernonia, OR 97064

Area property taxes show modest increase

There will be some good news, some bad news and lots of questions, when over 28,000 property tax bills are received by Columbia County property owners.

A total of \$37,842,064 in property taxes is being billed for the county, cities, schools and special districts, 6.76 percent more than last year. An additional \$892,707 will be collected for such things as drainage district assessments and the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire patrol special assessments.

Countywide, the market value of all taxable property in-

creased by 4.59 percent from \$3.43 billion to \$3.58 billion, based on sales prior to January 1, 2002. The market value of most residential properties neither increased nor decreased throughout the county. A major exception was a 19 percent increase for rural Scappoose residential properties.

Commercial properties increased eight percent in St. Helens and Scappoose, four percent in Vernonia and twenty percent in Clatskanie, while decreasing by five percent in Rainier. However, property taxes are based on assessed values, not market value, which

was reduced by Measure 50 in 1997-98 to the 1995-96 market value, less 10 percent.

The typical tax bill will increase 2.3 percent inside the City of Vernonia and only 1.87 percent in the rural areas of Vernonia. Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire District property owners will see a 2.36 percent increase. These increases of less than three percent are due to lower bonded debt for both Portland Community College and Vernonia Rural Fire District.

Under Measure 50, taxing districts have frozen tax rates for operating purposes. At the same time, assessed values of individual properties are limited to a maximum of three percent increase each year, unless the property is improved, subdivided, re-zoned or disqualified from special assessment or exemption. These are "exceptions" to the three percent increase in assessed value.

The result of these two provisions of Measure 50 is that most property owners can expect a three percent increase in

Please see page 17

Critter Clippers Pet Grooming

"Holidays are approaching!! Make your grooming appointment now for guaranteed service."

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

NEW SERVICES

- Puppy's First Groom • Doggy Day Care
- Pick Up/Drop Off
- Retail: Web Based, On-site & Catalog

Full Service Grooms & Bath Services
Call for Appointment

Brandy Lindsey, Groomer

503-703-7334



Community Calendar

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30 31

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	1st 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	4th Saturday	10:30 a.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
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Schlegel Hall
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
Women's Aglow	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library

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 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.