

## WOEC meter readings completed; Hursch leaving

By Jim Buxton

At the regular February West Oregon Electric Cooperative board meeting, Operations Manager Steve Hursch reported that all of the meters will be read this month so that the billing will be back on track.

In January, only about a third of the meters were read and

the rest of the accounts were estimated because of the heavy workload due to recent storms. WOEC is currently replacing the older, manually-read meters with new remotely-read "Turtle" meters. Hursch reported that 165 meters had been replaced this month in the Fishhawk Lake area.

He also reported that WOEC members experienced 21 power outages in January, resulting in 1,414 outage hours. Trees falling on the power lines caused the majority of the outages.

Hursch, who has been with WOEC for approximately five years as Engineering and Operations Manager, has accepted a similar position at Columbia River Public Utility District in St. Helens. A former Portland General Electric employee, Steve Scott, has been hired.

## Property tax exemption deadline near for disabled war veterans, surviving spouses

The deadline for disabled war veterans and surviving spouses of war veterans to apply for the veterans' property tax exemption is April 1. Qualified veterans or their surviving spouses may be entitled to exempt either \$9,860 or \$13,130 of their property's assessed value from property taxes.

The \$9,860 exemption applies to war veterans with disabilities of 40 percent or more and to war veterans' surviving spouses who have not remar-

ried. The \$13,130 exemption applies to war veterans with service-connected disabilities of 40 percent or more. It also applies to the surviving spouses of war veterans who died because of service-connected illness or injury, or who had received at least one year of the maximum exemption.

For more information, call the Columbia County Tax Assessor's Office at 503-397-2240 or visit <www.dor.state.or.us> under Publications.

### Town Hall Meeting Legislative Update With Representative Betsy Johnson

The Oregon State Legislature is dealing with the largest budget problem in 20 years. The issues are complex - from PERS reform, to public safety, human services and education. Please join us for a discussion of these important issues and their potential effect on our State's financial future.

Scout Cabin  
901 Park Drive, Vernonia  
Saturday, March 8th  
1:00 - 2:00PM

No public funds were used for this advertisement - Paid for by Rep. Betsy Johnson



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## Slide program set on Vernonia history

Ann Fulton, Ph.D., author of *Vernonia, A Pocket in the Woods*, will present a slide program and lecture on Saturday, March 8 at 3:00 p.m. in the library. Entitled, "Vernonia's Historic Buildings, The Stories Behind the Facades", the afternoon's presentation will offer a lighthearted look at Vernonia. This will be free to the public and refreshments will be served.

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## Donkey basketball coming up on Feb. 21

Don't miss an evening of hilarious fun with Donkey Basketball at Vernonia High School on February 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. This is a fund raiser for Vernonia Pride.

# Community Calendar

FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
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
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
23	24	25	26	27	28		30	31						27	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., Scout Cabin
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
Hands On Art Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
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
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
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	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.
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.