

Columbia County, Banks levies all fail

Nearly 72 percent of Banks voters approved Measure 34-69, supporting the renewal of a five-year operating levy for the city's police department.

Unfortunately, their overwhelming support didn't mean a thing. With 246 "yes" votes and 97 "no" votes, the "double majority" requirement invalidated the results because not enough registered voters bothered to cast a ballot.

The same fate applied to Measure 34-70, a Banks parks levy, which received nearly 53 percent voter approval.

Columbia County voters, on the other hand, said "No" to a three-year local option levy that would have raised funds for the Sheriff's Department. However, if voters had supported the levy, the result would have been the same as in Banks: Not enough votes were cast to approve a funding measure.

The final tally was 6,631 No votes (57.86 percent), with 4,763 (41.56 percent) ballots supporting the levy.

All election counts are "unofficial" until certified by the Secretary of State.

September 16, 2003, Special Election

Columbia County Results

(UNOFFICIAL FINALS)

County Measure 5-113

Local Option Levy for Sheriff's Department

Yes.....	4,763	41.56%
No.....	6,631	57.86%

State Measure 29

Constitutional Amendment for Issuance of Bonds

Yes.....	4,678	40.82%
No.....	6,518	56.87%

(Defeated in Columbia County; passed on statewide balloting)

Oregon using more natural gas

Demand for natural gas is increasing in Oregon and around the country, which may lead to higher prices this winter. Parts of the country could also experience problems with supply, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Supply problems are not anticipated in the Pacific Northwest, but price increases are expected. Natural gas accounts for about 19 percent of the energy used in Oregon.

"Natural gas is used for home heating, generating electricity and keeping Oregon's industries running," says Michael Grainey, director of the Oregon Office of Energy. "Conserving all forms of energy can help protect Oregonians from price shocks. There are ways our office can help, from no-cost energy saving ideas to tax credits for investments in conservation."

Oregon has about 627,000 natural gas customers. It's estimated that about 38 percent of the natural gas delivered to Oregon produces electricity, 32 percent is industrial use, 13 percent is commercial use and 17 percent is residential use.

Oregon receives natural gas from Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, British Columbia and Alberta. The three natural gas utilities in Oregon are Northwest Natural, Avista Corporation and Cascade Natural Gas.

"We can all play a role in reducing energy consumption," Grainey says. "Conservation will not only help ease the pressure on the natural gas supply, but will save consumers money."

Some ideas for saving energy include replacing furnace filters, sealing leaking duct work, using a programmable thermostat, installing compact fluorescent lights and washing clothes in cold water. More information on conservation, renewable energy and tax credits can be found on the Oregon Office of Energy Web site at www.energy.state.or.us



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Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
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	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	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

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
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-8134
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 Garden Group	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Pioneer Museum
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	3rd 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

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 Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 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
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.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

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