

Open House demonstration of fuel cells will be held at WOEC

If you have ever wondered how a fuel cell works, you can find out Wednesday, December 17, when West Oregon Electric Cooperative will host an open house showcasing a working fuel cell.

WOEC is field-testing the fuel cell system in their office at 715 Maple Street, Vernonia, for a limited time. A representative from PNGC Power will present fuel cell demonstrations during the open house.

The proton exchange membrane (PEM) type fuel cell has an on-board fuel processor that allows it to extract hydrogen out of a mixture of methanol and water. The hydrogen is then fed into the fuel cell stack and after a chemical reaction takes place, the result is electricity, water vapor and heat.

This type of fuel cell is still a few years from the commercial market, but it is an exciting and environmentally friendly technology for anyone who needs to generate electricity on site.

The open house will be from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the co-op office. Refreshments will be served.

PNGC Power is a Portland-based electric power services cooperative owned by 15 Northwest electric distribution cooperative utilities. In 1996, the company became the first electric cooperative in the country to receive a power marketing license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. More information about PNGC Power can be found at www.pngcpower.com.

Symposium on Agriculture and Urban Lands in Washington Co.

Westside Washington County, several urban and rural cities in the county, the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and the Westside Economic Alliance are jointly sponsoring the Washington County Agriculture and Urban Land Needs Symposium on Friday, December 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will be held at Pacific University's Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center (McCready Hall), 2043 College Way in Forest Grove.

The one-day symposium will feature a discussion among representatives from Washington County, key agriculture operations, the high-tech industry cluster, other major west side business clusters, and urban

and rural cities along the Urban Growth Boundary. Symposium panels will address area-specific balancing of the "complete communities" and "livability" needs of urban and rural Washington County communities with land requirements essential to economic stability and the viability of agriculture industry clusters in the county. Symposium results will be reported to decision-makers interested in the UGB in Washington County.

To register for the symposium, call Rene Heade, City of Hillsboro at 503-681-6468. Symposium packet materials are available on the City of Hillsboro website <www.ci.hillsboro.or.us>.

St. Helens gallery show on Nature

The St. Helens-Scappoose Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the opening of a new show in the Depot Gallery Gift Shop at the Chamber. The Gallery, which highlights local artists, is located inside the Chamber's building at the intersection of Highway 30 and Columbia Boulevard, 2194 Columbia Blvd. in St. Helens. The building also houses a Visitor Information Center.

The current exhibit, "Forces of Nature", includes paintings by Gerald Tilley, Chris Kaleta, and Judy Williams; stipple works by Terri Van Matre; photography, cards, and lamps by Jamie Gatlin; photography by Rhonda Hills; turned wood bowls by Jim Paulson; welded steel sculpture by Scott Kelly; lampworked bead jewelry and fused glass dishes by Amity Springs Creations; gourmet foods by Oregon Hill Farms; woodwork and pottery by Sheri Hope-Decker; handcrafted wood furniture by Speed Carter; watercolor original paintings and cards by Debbie Camberg and Cindy Bremmer; embroidered souvenir clothing by The Embroidery Hutch and NW Apparel.

The "Forces of Nature" show will continue through Decem-

ber. During the holiday season, hours will be Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4:00 p.m. For more information, call Cheryl Bonner at 503-397-0685.

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