

Business Notes

WOEC manager happily returns to Oregon and small town living

Before talking about business, Marc Farmer, who started as general manager of West Oregon Electric Cooperative (WOEC) on July 11, wanted to correct one statement.

Farmer was reported earlier as being from Idaho, and he has been living and working there, but both he and his wife are Oregonians. He is originally from Cave Junction and his wife, Julie, is from Medford, and feel that they are now back "home" in Oregon.

Julie Farmer is a professional hair stylist and will start work at Spiralz in August. Their four children are scattered around with the oldest, Jonathan, currently in Rome, Italy. Jessica is married and living in Grants Pass with her husband and new baby, Ashlynn. Trevor and Megan, 17 and 16, will be juniors this year at Vernonia High School.

Farmer, who graduated from Rogue Community College, attended Brigham Young for a

year before going to Southern Oregon State College, then got



Marc Farmer

in many places and make some very special memories, including his dip in Alaska waters when he joined the Polar Bear Club. The Polar Bear papers state that he "willfully" jumped in the water. That was fun, but traveling got old, so the decision was made to pursue a job that would allow for more family time.

WOEC is a good fit for Farmer's experience and brings the family back to small town Oregon. While very complimentary of the staff and current operations at WOEC, Farmer said that the main reason he was brought on board at WOEC was his experience in internet and satellite communications, as WOEC has not been able to do much with their subsidiary, Columbia Broadband.

Farmer has two primary goals: One is to expand WOEC's service territory if possible. The chance of doing so is slim, because it is difficult to find underserved electric customers in the area. Farmer

says commercial/industrial customers would be needed to help with this goal, and that will depend greatly on what happens with PGE territory.

The second goal is to make Columbia Broadband successful...again, if possible. A similar venture by rural electric cooperatives, but one with greater potential, is a service called Wild Blue that will be available commercially in August. The franchise rights have been purchased to allow Wild Blue to be marketed in Oregon, Washington and Utah. Wild Blue is high speed internet via satellite and will be available in three different packages. Stay tuned for more information on this project at the annual meeting on August 27 at the Scout Cabin.

In the meantime, Farmer is familiarizing himself with WOEC and with Vernonia. Already familiar with the local coffee house, look for him around town or find him at WOEC. He'll be the one looking happy to be here and ready to work hard for his customers.

Strassel Road will be detour route

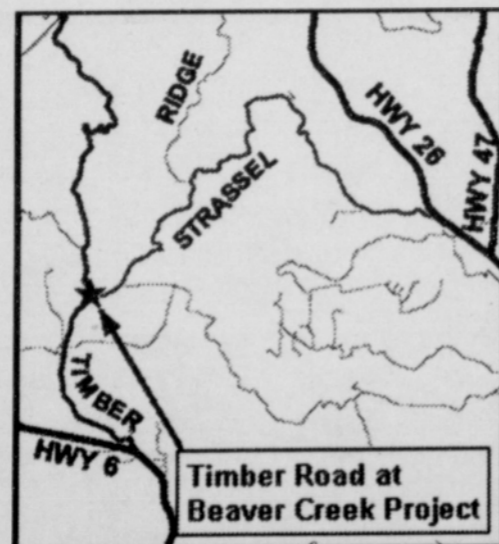
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foot long single span with 26-inch deep, pre-cast, prestressed concrete slabs supported by a driven pipe pile foundation. Each concrete abutment will be founded on six 12-inch pipe piles that will be driven to mudstone to achieve the bearing strength required. The new roadway width and out-to-out width of the slabs is 36 feet. The roadway will accommodate two 12-foot travel lanes with two four-foot shoulders.

The existing culvert was installed in 1969 to carry Beaver Creek under Timber Road. The new bridge and roadway alignment will closely match the existing horizontal and vertical roadway alignments. Minor vertical adjustments will be made at the bridge to facilitate drainage. The new bridge will meet current safety and seismic

design standards. This project is funded by the 2003 Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA III). It is one of seven bridges selected in Washington County for replacement by the Oregon Transportation Commission this year.

For additional information or inquiries, contact Abe Turki at (503) 846-7859 or by e-mail at abraham_turki@co.washington.or.us



a job in marketing at Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative one term short of graduation, back in 1986. He worked there for 11 years, becoming Marketing and Economic Development Director in addition to being named General Manager of their subsidiary, Direct TV, in 1993. He then spent two years working in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for Digital Television Services of Georgia. That company was bought out by Pegasus Satellite Services who moved Farmer to Kuna, Idaho. He worked for Pegasus for eight months before returning to National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC, the Direct TV people) and stayed with them for six-plus years.

The NRTC job involved traveling, lots of traveling, from Alaska to California and over to Colorado, covering nine states. It allowed him to make friends

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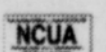
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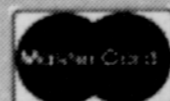
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