

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer,
General Manager,
West Oregon Electric Cooperative



Co-op Annual Meeting is Your Meeting

On Saturday, August 19, at the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park, West Oregon Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be conducting our Annual Meeting. The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. with the business portion of the meeting, completion of the election of Board members, reports from the Officers, Board of Directors, and the General Manager, followed by old and new business. Those who attend the meeting will be eligible for door prizes and a catered luncheon. There is a good amount of door prizes with the grand prize being a \$250 gift certificate from Big O Tires in Scappoose.

Why should you attend? Besides the obvious reasons of door prizes and a catered lunch (catered by our good friends from the former Timber Junction), it really is your annual

meeting. This is an Electric Cooperative, owned and operated by its members. You have an opportunity to elect your own Board members to represent your interests and guide and direct the utility to best serve its member owners. How many utilities that you pay bills to do you actually have an ownership in and an elected representative? You have an opportunity to come and visit with all of the Board members and the Management of the Co-op, to ask questions, offer comments, and hear how your cooperative is doing.

When I first started at Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative 20 years ago, I had no idea what an Electric Cooperative was. I was familiar with the Grange Co-op in my home town of Cave Junction, but not what it really meant to be a cooperative. Since joining the cooperative at Coos-Curry, I have been a co-op member for years now and wouldn't have it any other way. I believe in the philosophy of being a member owned, not for profit, service oriented utility where the money, the jobs, and the focus are kept local. It is not only a philosophy I have come to embrace, but am passionate about and actively live.

I would really like the members of our West Oregon Electric Cooperative to understand how fortunate you are to be served by a cooperative. Our purpose and our mission are to serve the members of this cooperative, not to make money for our stockholders. We serve an area that nobody else wanted to serve. They didn't care about the people or the area because there wasn't enough money to be made and too difficult to serve and maintain. West Oregon Electric Cooperative was formed to take on the difficult task and to do so as a not-for-profit, member owned utility over 60 years ago. We continue to serve against the odds. We care about the people and the area. We strive to keep the lights on, the service reliable, our members taken care of, and costs down the best we can. At the end of the day, it takes a cooperative effort, attitude, and work ethic to make it all work. This weekend we get to celebrate that cooperative spirit with you, our members. I hope you will take some time to join us in our celebration. Come and say hello, educate yourself about the co-op of which you are a member owner, enjoy the food and prizes, and thank the Board of Directors and Staff for all they do to serve you each and every day. I hope to see you there.

Top ten list to fight online predators

Governor Kulongoski recently announced a new tool parents can use to fight online sexual predators, and unveiled a "top ten list" of actions parents can take to keep children safe.

"The internet provides children many learning opportunities, but as they become more technologically savvy, children can also become more vulnerable to online sexual predators," Governor Kulongoski said. "The growth of online social networking sites, such as Myspace.com, also provides sexual predators a perfect opportunity to lure minors. We're working hard to give parents the tools they need to keep kids safe."

Law enforcement officials and a bi-partisan group of lawmakers joined the Governor as he announced the "top ten list" to be featured on his website, <http://governor.oregon.gov/>.

As part of his on-going effort to combat online predators, Governor Kulongoski also announced that he has enlisted the help of the "Classroom Law Project," a non-profit that works with schools around the state to research issues and participate in the legislative process. Under this project, students will study online sexual predators and solicitation of minors, and report findings and recommendations to the next session of the Legislature.

The Governor's "Top Ten List" for parents includes the following:

1) Before allowing your kids

to go online, develop rules for their internet use. Rules should include what websites your child may visit, whom they can talk to online, how long they can be online and where they can use a computer.

2) Keep the computer in a common area of the home, such as the family room. Don't keep computers with internet access in your child's room, and don't let children use the internet when you are not at home.

3) Periodically review your child's email account. Find out what websites your kids go to by checking the "history" folder of your internet browser. Visit these sites and find out what type of information they offer.

4) Note whether your child changes or minimizes the screen when you walk into the room, or whether your child suddenly spends more time online. Such behavior could be signs that your child is doing something inappropriate on the internet.

5) Don't allow social networking on sites such as "myspace.com" or "facebook.com" for children in middle school or younger.

6) Talk to your kids about their photos and entries before they are posted. Since anything can be downloaded and forwarded on the web, ask your kids if they want the world to see what they post. Remind older kids that future colleges or potential employers could be checking them out, as well as teachers and classmates!

7) Set time limits before children go online and stick by those limits!

8) Don't allow kids to have
Please see page 16

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Day	Time
Tues.	9:00-10:00am 6:00-7:00pm
Wed.	4:30-5:30pm 5:30-6:30pm
Thurs.	9:00-10:00am 6:00-7:00pm

Drop-in or Single Class	\$8
5 Class Series	\$38
10 Class Series	\$70

Yoga studio is 5 miles from Vernonia at 20960 Scappoose Vernonia Hwy — the log house with white trim.

503-429-2103

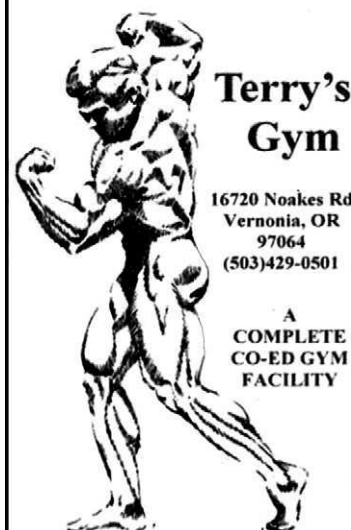
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Power and Flow Yoga
Power and Flow Yoga

20 Class Series	\$130
One Month Unlimited	\$80
Private Session	\$25



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