

Pay property taxes at Wauna or on-line

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prior to January 1, 2007, was rural Saint Helens and Warren, where vacant land values increased by 41 percent. Most of the remaining residential market values in the county increased by an average of 15 percent. However, Poling pointed out that property taxes are based on assessed value, not market value. The total assessed value this year is \$3,898,081,711 or 8.27 percent higher than last year. The increase includes the three percent increase in maximum assessed value, plus new construction.

A total of \$50,307,931 in property taxes are being billed for the county, cities, schools and special districts, 4.34 percent more than was billed last year. An additional \$1,201,211 will be collected for such things as drainage districts assess-

ments and the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire patrol special assessments.

The first payment of the tax bill is due by November 15. Payments that are mailed need to be postmarked by the 15th. At least one third of the amount is due at that time. The second and third installments are due by February 15 and May 15, however the County does not send out statements for the February or May due dates.

Property owners who pay the entire amount due by November 15th will receive a three percent discount. If two thirds of the bill is paid by November 15th a two percent discount of the amount paid will be allowed.

Columbia County property tax payments can be made with credit and debit cards on-line at www.officialpayment.com, or by calling 1-877-246-3058.

There is a 2.5 percent charge to use a credit card, or a \$3.00 flat fee for debit card use.

Also, as in past years, 2007-2008 property taxes can be paid at authorized local financial institutions through November 15, 2007, at the following: Wauna Federal Credit Union in Clatskanie, St. Helens and Vernonia; St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union, all branches in Columbia County; and Bank of the West in St. Helens.

Property owners may appeal the value of their property as in past years. However, if the appeal results in a lower market value, there would be a reduction in the taxes due only if the market value falls below the assessed value. The deadline for filing an appeal is December 31, 2007. Appeal forms are available from the county clerk or county assessors office.

Farm loans for women, minorities

The Washington/Columbia County Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced they have loan funds available to help qualified women and minorities buy and operate family-sized farms. FSA reserves a portion of its loan guarantee funds to assist socially disadvantaged applicants.

Socially disadvantaged groups are those whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purpose of FSA's loan programs, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA's loan and loan guarantee funds are available to individuals and entities that are primarily and directly engaged in

farming and ranching on family-sized operations. Farm ownership loan funds are available to help purchase a farm or ranch. To qualify, the applicant must have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least three years.

For those applicants who have at least one year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch, funds are available to help with the purchase of livestock, machinery and equipment, as well as annual production expenses.

Information is available on the Oregon State FSA website at www.fsa.usda/or/ or by calling 503-648-3174, ext. 2.

Turkeys are needed

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tion is 10-12 pounds. One hundred percent of donations stay in the community and all donations are tax deductible.

Community Calendar

NOVEMBER 2007							DECEMBER 2007							JANUARY 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31												

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays & Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 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	6:30 p.m., City Hall
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-4250
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2		For Info Call 503-819-0143
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Learning Center	1st Wednesday	6:00 p.m., VLC
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS
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 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
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
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	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
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., Fire District Office
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., Brown Derby
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

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
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
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 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.