

Earthquake presentation coming

Columbia County can have earthquakes and local emergency officials want you to learn about and be prepared for them.

The Columbia County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Commission (HSEMC) and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) are pleased to announce two upcoming discussions about the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis in western Oregon.

The first presentation will be Friday, August 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Scappoose City Hall, 33568 E. Columbia Avenue. The second presentation will be Saturday, August 8, at 10:00 a.m. at the Clatskanie School Board office, 555 SW Bryant Street. Both presentations are free to the public.

The speaker will be James Roddey, an earth sciences information officer from DOGAMI. Roddey has given numerous talks around the state regarding the history and science

of earthquakes in Oregon. His presentations include narratives of past earthquakes collected from Native American and Japanese records as well as recent geological evidence demonstrating that another quake will occur in the future.

"Many people have heard Roddey speak and they find him to be exciting to listen to," said Derek White, acting deputy director for Columbia County Emergency Management. "He's definitely not a boring speaker and we are glad to have him come out and speak in Columbia County."

White adds that it is vital for people to understand the hazards we face. "There are a lot of things that can affect us in Columbia County, but the earthquake threat is potentially the most catastrophic. People should not live in fear but, instead, be prepared for whatever happens. We hope folks will come out for these presentations and bring their families."

Loan briefing for small businesses

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Portland District Office, at 601 S.W. Second Avenue, Portland, will be holding a briefing on financing a small business. The session is free and will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, in Suite 2030 at the district office.

The Loan briefing is presented by a SBA Loan Specialist and will cover financing options to start or grow a small business. Topics will include: SBA Loan Guarantee Program, credit requirements, use of proceeds, how to approach a lender and loan proposal assistance.

For additional information, call 503-326-2682.

Three coho okay from Nehalem River

With a large number of hatchery coho salmon expected to return to the Nehalem River basin this year, fishery managers have increased the daily bag limit to three adult hatchery coho per day beginning Aug. 1.

"We are expecting several thousand hatchery coho to return to Nehalem Hatchery this year, and we want to see these fish caught by anglers," said Chris Knutsen, ODFW fisheries biologist.

Nehalem Hatchery releases approximately 100,000 coho smolts every year. The adult coho that are returning this year entered the ocean as juveniles in the spring of 2008. They were greeted by excellent

ocean conditions that have allowed them to grow quickly and survive in good numbers.

While these coho can be very aggressive in the lower bay, Knutsen counsels anglers to be patient and vary their angling techniques when fishing in the upper bay and river.

"Being in the right place at the right time is the key to success," he said. "Trolling spinners a few feet below the surface can be very effective at times, and if you see coho jumping, consider anchoring and casting spinners toward the rising fish. These fish will often strike the spinner while it is falling toward the bottom."

ODFW reminds anglers that chinook angling in the Nehalem

Power of the People

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



Legislative Update

The Oregon State Legislature has wrapped up and Federal is getting ready to recess so it is a good time to bring you up to date on how electric cooperatives did at the state level and how we are faring at the national level. Through the excellent efforts of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA), our Board President Robert VanNatta, Board Vice-President David Hess, our local legislators Senator Betsy Johnson and Representatives Debbie Boone and Brad Witt, and others, we actually fared very well during this session of the State Legislature.

Among the highlights of this session was the defeat of Senate Bill 80 which could have proved very costly to all electric utilities in Oregon. It was an untested cap and trade system which would have capped carbon emissions and developed a complex trading system for carbon credits. These carbon credits could be traded or sold to the highest bidder, which means the rich would get richer and the poor lose out once again. Through ORECA, the Oregon cooperatives developed an alternative offer with energy efficiency and conservation proposal. Both bills failed when climate legislation was shelved. The reeling economy also played a key role, as the cost of power would have been negatively impacted for all aspects of every community.

ORECA and its member cooperatives also helped defeat two other bills, (House Bill 2253 and House Bill 2042), which would have imposed new fees on electric cooperatives, resulting in increased costs to us and thus increased rates to our members. Both bills failed to muster support and never made it out of committee.

One of the biggest victories was the passage

of Senate Bill 570, which was metal theft legislation that will help to curb metal thieves who threaten public safety and utility reliability. Metal thieves have cost West Oregon Electric Co-op thousands of dollars in stolen items and damaged lines. This bill will make payments be in the form of checks instead of cash and increase the identification process for those selling metal.

Other successful bills we supported were transmission siting, making it easier to build new transmission lines for renewable energy projects, efficiency loans, and tree trimming bills.

On the federal level, we are having a lot more difficulty with the cap and trade issue and the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act by a vote of 219 to 112. Starting in 2012, the bill would establish limits on emissions of carbon and other green house gases from electric utilities and oil refiners. The bill calls for emission reductions of 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. Oregon Representatives Peter DeFazio and Greg Walden voted against the legislation while Representatives David Wu, Kurt Schrader, and Earl Blumenauer voted for it.

We are very concerned with the aggressive timeline, carbon targets, and potential costs of this legislation and will be working through ORECA and PNGC with our congressional delegation to ensure we are not disadvantaged in the allocation of "emission allowances" as we strive to comply with the mandates in this bill. West Oregon and the other cooperatives in Oregon have a very low carbon footprint, but future growth will have to come from a wide range of resources, mostly renewable. A mix of other sources will be needed to meet the ever growing power demands of our members. This would force us to have to buy much more expensive forms of energy or pay for carbon emission credits. Either way, the costs of future power are going to be dramatically more expensive if this bill passes in its current form. We will keep you posted as the Senate takes action on this bill sometime this summer.

Schwan's Block Party
11 am - 3 pm
Great Schwan's Treats For All.



**1:00 - 3:00pm Meet, greet,
and take a photo with the
Columbia County Rodeo Court**



DOUBLE C TACK

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**Jamboree
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August 8th 1103 Bridge St,
Open Mon. to Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun. 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
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