

Northwest Voice For Christ Ministries
"An Interdenominational Church"

THE VOICE FOR CHRIST



Pastor & Elect Lady
Bishop H. L. & Earlean P. Hodge
Pastor/Teacher/Revivalist

Worship Services:
Sundays: Church School—9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship—10:00 A.M.
Seminars: Bible Themes—Wednesdays—7:00 P.M.
"God The Father"; "God The Son"; and "God The Holy Spirit"

Bishop Hodge and Congregation invite you to join us at our appointment with Jesus.
We Reach, Teach, & Preach in Jesus' name!!!

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Times Remain Hard

continued from front

is facing an unexpected \$577 million budget shortfall. Gov. Ted Kulongoski, using his executive power, ordered 9 percent across the board cuts, which will slash services for vulnerable citizens just when they need them the most.

State officials are still determining how the cuts will be implemented, while legislative leaders are hoping for an infusion of cash from the federal government.

Teachers will be laid off, and seniors and families with disabled members will lose in-home care from the Oregon Department of Human Services. There will also be other cuts as well.

Cuts to the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department will mean that programs aimed at staving off homelessness and hunger will be deprived of badly needed funding.

Under the cuts, the department will lose \$382,179 for its homeless assistance program meaning that 31,158 people will not get help finding shelter.

Lisa Joyce, spokesperson for the department, said that the program funds county shelters and non-profits fighting homelessness, as well as providing hotel vouchers for needy families. Funding for shelters has remained flat for years, said Joyce, and the cuts will come at a time when Oregon is experiencing a

surge in homelessness.

Also on the chopping block is state funding for the Oregon Food Bank, which runs a statewide network of food pantries. The budget cuts will mean \$95,169 less for the OFB, which will now have to find other money to buy about 275,000 pounds of bulk staples like beans, rice, and oatmeal.

"It's very hard to know how much that will affect us," said Rachel Bristol, the CEO of the OFB. She said that her organization is looking for funding elsewhere, and added that she's seen more newly-impo- verished people rely on it for help. She also expects cuts elsewhere in the state budget to funnel more people to the OFB.

Mosquitoes on the Rise

continued from front

Oregon in 2004, West Nile has plagued more than 100 Oregonians, including 12 just last year. Though the general prognosis of a mild West Nile virus infection is very good, the encephalitis and flu-like symptoms associated with the disease are un-

desirable- even when they're unlikely to be fatal.

Portlanders are advised to defend themselves by removing standing water from around their homes because an unused kiddie pool or bird-bath can be a breeding ground for thousands of mosquitoes, says Kessler.

Those who choose to go out in the evening should wear long clothing and spray themselves with an



insect repellent containing DEET or the chemical picaridin, writes Christine Stone, communications officer for the Oregon Public Health Division, in an e-mail exchange.

Though the 14th annual National Mosquito Control Awareness Week was three weeks ago, Portlanders must continue to follow protective procedures. Unlike that of the mosquitoes, this buzz might be annoying, but it is far from meaningless.

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