

Give your home a winter tune-up; be more comfortable; save \$\$

Can you spare \$50 and one or two weekend afternoons to save five to 10 percent on heating bills all winter long? That's all it takes to make the most effective energy efficiency improvements in

many Oregon homes, according to Suzanne Dillard, residential program coordinator for the Oregon Department of Energy.

"Whether you rent or own, there are things you can do to

make your home more comfortable this winter," says Dillard. "Just plugging obvious holes and cracks in your house and adding plastic storms to single-pane windows will warm up surfaces, reduce drafts and cut heat loss." If you own your home, adding insulation and improving heating system efficiency may also be smart investments, Dillard points out.

Begin your winter tune-up by sealing air leaks. If you want to tackle just one project this weekend, plug holes below kitchen and bathroom sinks. Check for gaps around pipes through walls and floors. Slide plastic or metal trim rings away from the wall or floor. They may be covering up huge gaps. Fill them with acrylic latex caulk, expanding foam, or rags stuffed in a plastic bag.

If you're ready to do more, head for the attic. Seal holes where plumbing vent stacks, ducts and wiring enter rooms below. Use plywood or wall-

board for large holes—over drop ceilings, for example. Caulk and expanding foam work well for cracks and gaps. Don't seal around chimneys and flues unless you use special high-temperature sealants. Insulate and weatherstrip the attic access hatch or panel for a tight fit.

Next stop is the basement or crawl space. Cold air entering here cools off the entire house. Seal holes around pipes and wiring where they enter the floor. Seal holes where pipes and wiring enter the basement. Fill large holes around pipes with a plastic bag stuffed with rags. Caulk basement window and door frames.

Now you're ready to tighten up the living space. This is a good time to solve any mold or mildew problems. Weatherizing your home can make them more obvious.

Patch holes in plaster and gypsum board on interior walls. Seal gaps along the top and bottom edges of

baseboards. Caulk around window and door frames from the inside. Weatherstrip loose-fitting windows and doors. Adjust latches for tight closure. If you have a fireplace with a poor-fitting damper, make a cover for the face of the fireplace out of plywood or cardboard. Or invest about \$20 in an inflatable chimney pillow or draft stopper.

Single-pane windows can make you feel chilly even when your thermostat is set above 70°F. That's because your body radiates heat to colder surfaces the way a lighted fireplace radiates heat to you. Installing interior plastic storm windows over single-pane windows in the rooms you sit in the most is an excellent investment. They warm up window surfaces, cut heat loss in half, and seal around loose-fitting windows.

"Shrink-wrap" is good for one winter. Vinyl "snap-track" storm windows last several

Please see page 24

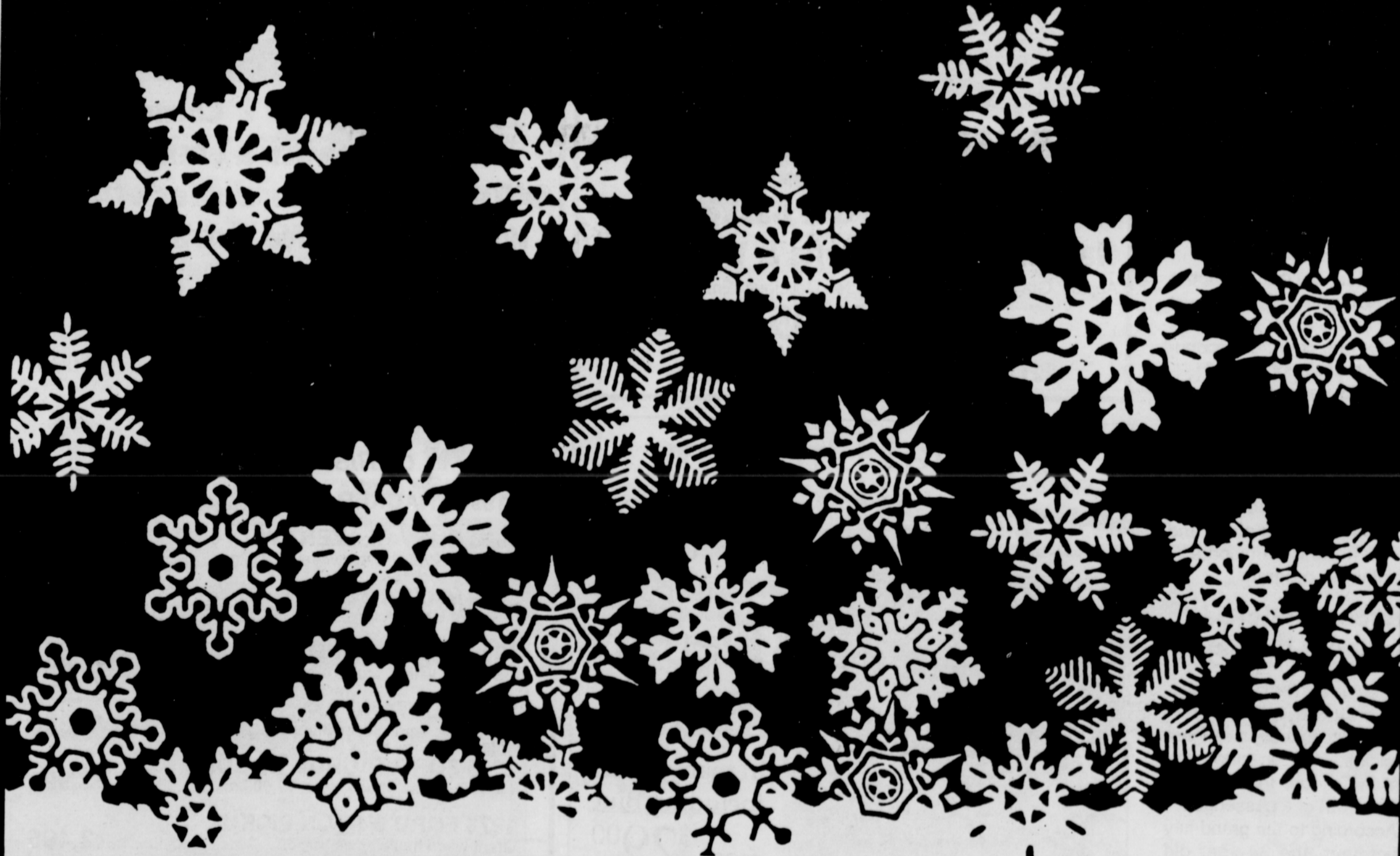


Randall E. Holce

Certified Public Accountant

622 Bridge St., Vernonia * 429-8031

Celebrate the uniqueness of the season



Vernonia Sentry MARKET

Mario Leonetti
Kathy Squires
Shelly Stevens
Michael Crawford
Michael Jackson

Bunny Simmons
Don Chapel
Angela Wolfe
John Barcus
Sharon Dickey

Gordon Smith
Sharon Parrow
Corrie Ramsey
Leah Keenon
Justin Jones
Katie Parrow

Chuck Hendryx
Gladys Sharar
Jody Milburn
Jeni Ervin
Robert Jackson
Stephanie Squires

Randy Parrow
Errold Burch
Gwen Green
Ray Dement
Dave Riley
Katy O'Dair

Sentry Market will Close at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve * Closed Christmas Day * Regular Hours 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. - 7 Days a Week

Scrub Tub will Close at 3 p.m. Christmas Eve * Closed Christmas Day

735 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia, OR 97064 • 429-3811