

Business Notes

County receives grant for food, shelter

Columbia County has been awarded \$32,094 in federal funds to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a national board chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The board—which includes representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities, National Council of the Churches of Christ, and United Way of America—determines how to distribute funds appropriated by Congress under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Distribution of the funds within Columbia County will be determined by a board composed of representatives from the VFW, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, the county Dept. of Emergency Management, community churches, homeless and others.

Organizations wishing to apply for the grant money must meet the following criteria:

- Private voluntary non-profit OR unit of government
- Have an accounting system
- Practice nondiscrimination
- Have demonstrated capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs within Columbia County.

• If a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board.

• Have a permanent presence in Columbia County.

Qualifying organizations are urged to apply by Monday, January 7, 2002.

Send proposals to United Way, 71762 Columbia River Highway, Suite 6, Rainier, OR 97048. For more information, call 503-556-3614. United Way of Columbia County will provide administrative staff and function as fiscal agent.

M-BRFPD board sets schedule for meetings

The Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection Board will hold their regular monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. A board workshop will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, also at 7:00 p.m. All meetings will be at the main station, 12525 Hwy 202 in Mist unless otherwise specified.

The next Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD board meeting will be January 8

Agenda items include, but are not limited to, consideration of a part-time employee, a water treatment system, and letters of intent for the open board position.

The meetings are open to the public and the agenda includes a time for comments from the public.

Time to consider flood insurance

Homeowners concerned about flooding may want to look into flood insurance, according to the Oregon Insurance Division. Most homeowner insurance policies don't cover flood damage.

According to Larry Culbertson, Consumer Assistance manager for the division, after a flood his office frequently hears from consumers who have filed flood claims with insurers only to learn their losses weren't covered.

"Many people don't know that coverage for flood damage is usually excluded from standard homeowner or business insurance policies," Culbertson

said. "But they can protect their property by purchasing flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as long as their community participates in the program."

The NFIP recommends buying flood insurance even in low or moderate risk areas. Flood insurance can be purchased from private insurance companies and agents that participate in the program. Coverage is available for homeowners, renters and businesses, although there is usually a 30-day waiting period before flood coverage becomes effective.

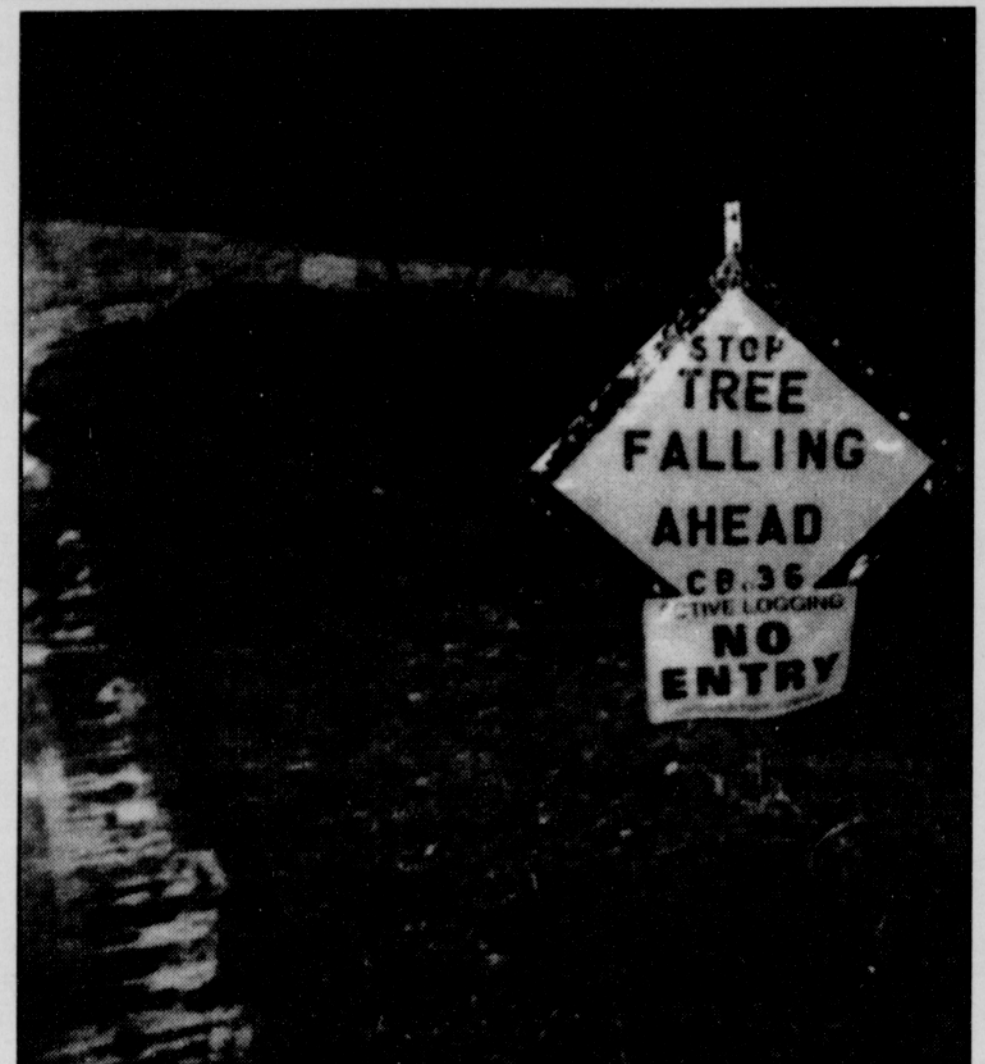
For more information, call 1-888-FLOOD29 or visit NFIP at www.fema.gov/nfip

Ditches, culverts must be cleared

With the return of heavy rains, Vernonia residents are being reminded that blocking ditches or culverts, whether deliberately or accidentally, could result in a citation and fine.

In December, quick action by the city's public works crew prevented flooding of a house on Jefferson Avenue, but it was necessary to tear out part of a sidewalk. The problem had been caused during dry weather, when another homeowner dumped yard debris in Bear Creek.

Drain pipes, culverts and ditches must be maintained by the property owner in a way that does not impede the flow of stormwater or reduce the capacity of the ditch or pipe.



Hunters were shocked and upset to see this sign during elk season on Burn Road near Mist. Burn Road is a county road and a flagger is required if it needs to be closed. The road was quickly opened after complaints were received.

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ANNUAL MEETING TIME



Election of Officers
Door Prizes • Refreshments
Wednesday, January 30, 2002 – 7:30 p.m.
Vernonia Senior Citizens Center, 446 Bridge Street, Vernonia
Please use side entrance

503 429-8031

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