

Energy grants and information now available on new website

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A grant also will fund research to show the cost-effectiveness of low-income energy assistance. Sponsored by Oregon HEAT, the research will be conducted by Quantec, Inc., a Portland-based organization specializing in environmental research. Oregon HEAT already received a grant of \$250,000 from the Meyer Memorial Trust, and today's grant of \$350,000 brings the total to \$600,000. Results of the research will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of providing assistance to ratepayers rather than relying on termination and collection activities that may force those unable to pay their bills to abandon their dwellings.

The grants will also provide about \$800,000 to support a statewide case management system through OHCS. Case managers based at Community Action Agencies (CAAs) will focus on program integration and consumer education, so that families seeking help to pay bills will also be able to access additional services such as weatherization and conservation training. Such integration is increasingly important as the need for bill-paying assistance continues to grow while the resources available for assistance are shrinking.

Some smaller programs are also included in the grant distribution. For example, Myer has allocated \$320,000 to install solar hot water heaters in 75 low-income homes and devel-

OSU takes trophy

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ing holidays, Oregon's blood banks supply thousands of life-saving blood transfusions around the clock. These transfusions are necessary for premature babies, cancer patients, trauma and burn victims as well as organ-transplant patients.

Last month, the Red Cross, Lane Memorial, UO and OSU received an "Award of Merit" for their collaboration on the 2004 Civil War Blood Drive from AABB, an international non-profit dedicated to the advancement of science and the practice of transfusion medicine.

op a template for such programs. Another \$180,000 will fund Energy Share Plus, a Lane County program that integrates services including energy education, efficient appliances, and some bill payments for low-income households, including extremely low-income, elderly and disabled Oregonians. And the Attorney General has allocated \$125,000 to Portland-based Community Energy Project, Inc., to expand its program, which makes extensive use of volunteers to provide workshops, training and in-home weatherization kits for extremely low-income Oregonians.

The Department of Justice's Consumer Protection and Education Account will receive \$1.2 million for continuing enforcement efforts.

The grants are the result of settlements with El Paso Corp. and Duke Energy. The settlements conclude a coordinated investigation into allegations of price manipulation and antitrust violations in the Western power market initiated in January 2001 by the attorneys general of Oregon, California and Washington. So far, the investigation has resulted in settlements totaling over \$2 billion, of which approximately \$50 million has been allocated to Oregon.

Christmas ships 2005 schedule

Christmas Ships 2005 will start their two week season December 6 on the Columbia and Willamette rivers.

For the first time in 51 years, the two fleets will be together in St. Helens and Columbia City. They will join forces on the evening of December 17. The following night, they will also be together as they move from Scappoose to North Portland through the Multnomah Channel.

Starting this year, the Willamette River fleet will go through the center of Portland to the north then turn around and move back up river at the Fremont Bridge. They leave each evening from RiverPlace Marina.

The two fleets will also combine on December 10, start at the Sellwood Bridge, go to Milwaukie, turn around and make their way back to downtown Portland and the Fremont Bridge.

Christmas Ships is an all-volunteer effort by a group of Portland area recreational boaters. Each pays their own costs for fuel and insurance. Local restaurants and hotels along the rivers donate to cover the cost of the event insurance.

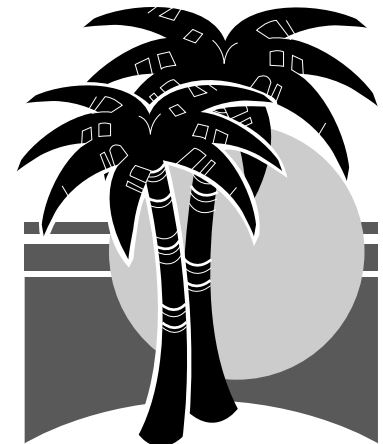
A full schedule of Christmas Ships 2005 is available at <www.christmasships.org>.

Enter to win a week in paradise

Agape Christian School in Aloha is raffling a one-week vacation in Maui, Hawaii, plus \$2,000 for airfare, spending money, etc. The week has been booked at the Embassy Suites in Ka'anapali, Maui for March 23 through 30, 2006. The oceanside resort has a large swimming pool and game room for the kids.

Only 4,000 tickets will be sold at \$20.00 each. Ticket sales end December 16. The winning ticket will be drawn Saturday, December 17. The

winner need not be present to win. Call 503-649-5677 for more information.



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