

# State receives \$4.5 million for weatherization grants

Low-income Oregonians will benefit from a \$4.5 million grant to weatherize homes and build new, energy-efficient housing through the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department. The grant funds come from Oregon Department of Justice settlements with El Paso Corporation and Duke Energy companies.

"Weatherization efforts do more than keep low-income Oregonians warm," said OHCS Director Victor Merced. "Investment in weatherization and energy-efficient housing benefits local communities — creating jobs, increasing activity at local business, generating taxes, and extending household budgets."

In fact, these new funds will generate economic benefit across the state. The \$4.5 million grant will generate an additional \$5.3 million for a total statewide economic impact of

\$9.8 million. Recent research conducted by Oregon Housing and Community Services found that every weatherization program dollar spent in Oregon generated another \$1.17 in economic activity across the state.

The study analyzed how weatherization dollars move between businesses, vendors, and households and "multiply," generating jobs, wages, and business income. Among the key findings:

- Each job associated with weatherization programs produces up to another 1.66 jobs statewide.

- Every \$1 in weatherization project wages generates up to another \$1.45 or more in wages across the state (this grant will generate an additional \$2.62 million in wages statewide).

- Low-income families spend

more locally when their energy bills fall, with each household saving an average of \$274 per year.

- Every household dollar spent as a result of energy savings yields another \$.85 statewide (nearly \$700,000 per year statewide with this grant).

The Duke and El Paso settlements concluded 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. Attorney General Myers chose to allocate portions of the settlement funds to assist those most harmed by the alleged unlawful conduct, through energy assistance and weatherization programs for low-income Oregonians.

For more information on the Low-Income Weatherization

Economic Impacts study, visit our website: [www.ohcs.oregon.gov/OHCS/SOS\\_WX\\_Economic\\_Impact.shtml](http://www.ohcs.oregon.gov/OHCS/SOS_WX_Economic_Impact.shtml), call Dan Elliot at 503-986-2016, or e-mail [dan.elliott@hcs.state.or.us](mailto:dan.elliott@hcs.state.or.us).

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is the state's housing finance agency and community services program administrator. The department provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of lower and moderate income and administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless, energy assistance, and community service programs. The OHCS' mission is to "Reach out for opportunities to create partnerships that improve Oregonians' lives and the quality of our communities." For more information, visit our website at [www.ohcs.oregon.gov](http://www.ohcs.oregon.gov).

## Get pesticide recertification

The Columbia County Extension office will be offering a pesticide recertification class on December 11. The class will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the OSU Extension Service Conference room in St. Helens. The class is approved for four hours of "other" credits.

The class will cover weed plant families and herbicide interactions, the new and required 2007 Pesticide Use Reporting System, calibrating a backpack sprayer, and non-chemical innovations in weed management systems.

To pre-register and for more information, call the Extension Service office at 503-397-3462, or stop in at the office located at 505 N. Columbia River Hwy in St. Helens. Class space is limited. There is no charge for the class.

# Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2006							JANUARY 2007							FEBRUARY 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31										
31																				

### VERNONIA

Al-Anon	Fridays	7:00 p.m. Grange Hall
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Public Works Committee	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Venturing Crew 201	1st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Learning Center	1st & Last Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

### MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

### BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.