

Emergency food/shelter fund reduced

A 21 percent reduction in federal National Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds left local agencies with \$10,860 in unfunded requests. This is the second consecutive year of reductions in funds for this emergency program.

United Way of Columbia County administers the distribution of EFSP funds, but the allocation is determined by a local board of volunteers representing American Red Cross, VFW, City of Vernonia, homeless, Columbia County Emergency Services, Salvation Army, Catholic Church, and retired citizens.

Funding requests to the EFSP board totaled \$41,300. Funds available for distribution totaled \$30,440.

"The decrease in funding from this program for a second year has made a difficult job even more difficult," the EFSP

Board stated. "We know that requests from our community for emergency services continue to increase. We [...] hope everyone understands that the decisions we made were extremely difficult. Thank you for all you do to improve the lives of those in need in our county."

The available funds were allocated as follows:

A. Women's Resource Center, \$4,000 – to help defray the cost of shelter for victims of domestic violence.

B. Community Action Team, \$6,000 – for Emergency Homeless Assistance.

C. Columbia Pacific Food Bank, \$15,140 – to purchase high protein and emergency food products.

D. Turning Point Community Center, \$5,000 for Emergency Homelessness Assistance.

E. United Way of Columbia County, \$300 – for adminis-

trative costs associated with EFSP Board support.

The money will be distributed directly from the national board to each agency in 2007.

County unemployment rate is unchanged

Columbia County's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.9 percent in December and down slightly from the year before (6.3 percent). The rate was higher than the statewide rate (5.4 percent) and the national rate (4.5 percent). Total employment dropped by 201 to 22,305 from the previous

Columbia Circuit Court vacancy

Governor Ted Kulongoski is accepting applications for appointment to the Columbia County Circuit Court, due to the retirement of Judge Berkeley

Smith effective June 1, 2007.

Interested attorneys must submit an Interest Form for Judicial Appointments to the Governor's office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23. Mail forms to: David Reese, Office of the Governor, 900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301.

Governor Kulongoski fills judicial vacancies based on merit. Applications from lawyers with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences are encouraged. ORS 3.041 and 3.050 provide that at the time of appointment to the court, the candidate must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Oregon and a member of the Oregon State Bar. ORS 3.041(5) provides the required length of time for the residency requirements.

For additional information, call Cassie Tarr at 503-378-6246 or go to www.governor.oregon.gov.



Community Calendar

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

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 7:00 p.m., 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 503-429-4250
- Friends of the Library 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
- Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2 1st & 3rd Thursdays 4:00 p.m., City Hall
- Hands On Art Committee 3rd Thursday For location call 503-429-7193
- Izaak Walton League 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
- Lions Club 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
- Narcotics Anonymous Saturdays For Info Call 503-429-3713
- Pioneer Museum 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Public Works Committee 1st & 3rd Thursdays 5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
- Venturing Crew 201 1st & 3rd Thursdays For Info call 503-429-1414
- Vernonia Cares Directors 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Vernonia City Council 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m., WGS Library
- Vernonia Community PTA 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
- Vernonia Grange 2nd Monday 6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
- Vernonia Health Center 1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m., VLC
- Vernonia Learning Center 3rd Wednesday 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- Vernonia Parks Committee 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Vernonia Planning Comm. 3rd Thursday 1:00 p.m., City Hall
- Vernonia Pride Last Thursday 7:00 p.m., Senior Center
- Vernonia Ridge Riders 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Fire Station
- Vernonia RFPD Board 2nd Thursday 6:00 p.m., District Office
- Vernonia School Board 2nd Friday 1:00 p.m., Senior Center
- 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.