

Homeowners beware: Construction scammers arrive with summer

Jeffrey Douglas Woodhouse, 34, Vancouver, Washington, was arrested July 18 by the Oregon State Police at the offices of the Construction Contractors Board (CCB) on warrants stemming from a joint investigation by Florence police and the CCB Enforcement section's Special Investigations Unit.

Woodhouse was arrested on Theft II charges and working as an unlicensed contractor for allegedly taking a deposit from a 78-year old Florence woman for a garage door installation and not doing the work.

Woodhouse is also suspected of taking construction deposits from other elderly homeowners and not doing work in Warrenton, Eugene, Reedsport and Albany. The CCB has re-

ferred the cases to the respective police departments and the Oregon Department of Justice.

"Older adults are often targets because they tend to be more trusting," said Gina Fox, CCB's Public Information Officer.

Protect Yourself From Construction Fraud

Every year, unscrupulous individuals pretending to be contractors, make their way city-to-city, through neighborhoods and manufactured home parks, looking for victims, mostly the elderly. Sometimes, they offer to pave your driveway, repair your roof, paint your house, or some other improvement with supplies left over from another job.

This is a scam. If they do any work, it is completed very quickly, the quality of the work is poor and the repairs usually cost more to fix than the original estimate.

Sometimes they just take the money and never return.

Scam artists working a home

Low interest loans available for home repairs, energy saving work

Low to moderate income homeowners may qualify for loans with no interest and deferred payments for structural repairs, foundation work, energy-saving measures or other health and safety repairs. Other eligible repairs include plumbing, electrical work, roofing, windows, weatherization and foundation work. Also included are siding, furnace and heating systems, dry rot, and septic and drainage systems. Not eligible are new construction, additions, furnishings, appliances, repairs to outbuildings, landscape and fencing.

Community Action Team administers the loan program in Columbia, Tillamook and Clat-

comop counties. To qualify for the program, you must own and reside in a home in one of the three counties. Homeowners must meet income guidelines and eligibility requirements.

Depending on the source of the loan funds used, loans must be paid back when the property is sold, if the title to the property changes or if the residence of the borrower.

For more information, homeowners may call Katie Lewis at 800-955-1675 or 503-397-1675.

Contractors interested in learning more about the program may call Cindy Peake at 503-325-8098.

Eyes Wide Open for all humanity

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hopes, "We can bring back some empathy for the people of Iraq and see that they are like us." He asks that people, "Really look at their American values. Is it an American value to occupy a country against their will and to spend scarce resources that are badly needed at home?" "Our soldiers are good people who love their country and have been put in an awful situation," Hunter

added. Regardless of anyone's position on the Iraq War, this exhibit offers well-researched information and a powerful look at the human toll. If you get a chance to see it, you will be moved.

The exhibit will be at Reed College in Portland on August 4 and in Lincoln City at the Lincoln City Cultural Center August 24-26. For more information, go to www.afsc.org/eyes.

Community Calendar

AUGUST 2007							SEPTEMBER 2007							OCTOBER 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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
26	27	28	29	30	31		30													

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays & 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	6:30 p.m., City Hall
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		For Info Call 503-819-0143
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
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
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 Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VLC
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	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
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS
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	7:30 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 Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
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.