

# Georgia-Pacific, Wauna mill employees raise over \$228,000 for UW

Georgia-Pacific, the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1097, and United Way announced, December 16, the successful conclusion of their 2008 United Way campaign. With a grant from the Georgia-Pacific Foundation and pledges from Wauna Mill employees, over \$228,000 was raised for United Way.

The funds will be distributed to Clatsop, Columbia, and Cowlitz/Wahkiakum counties.

Mill Manager Mike Tompkins, who joined the facility in

June, commented, "I have been overwhelmed by the commitment and passion Wauna employees have for United Way and commend them for all that they do to make this community great."

Vince Leonard, president, USW Local 1097, added "Our membership has for years been a strong supporter of United Way and I couldn't be prouder that now, with all of the distractions of the current economy, our members continue to keep the needs of our commu-

nity in their thoughts."

With over \$81,000 of these pledges going to Columbia County United Way, Kathye Beck, executive director, adds that the funds coming "at a time when we are seeing more need in our community than ever before, the generosity of Georgia-Pacific, USW Local 1097, and Wauna Mill employees is val-

ued even more. It will do a lot to help members of our community cope through this current economic crisis."

Beck also noted, "For the past decade, their generosity has assisted our neighbors in need by providing food and clothing for families, providing safe havens for women and children at risk, empowering

low income workers to learn new life and job skills to better their circumstances, providing support for our seniors, and a host of other valuable services."

Those interested in more information, or in contributing to United Way of Columbia County can contact the United Way office at 503-556-3614.

## Beware of storm repair scammers

December's winter storms have left many homes and buildings damaged by downed trees, ice-covered tree limbs and heavy snow. The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) warns Oregon homeowners not to become a victim to those pretending to be legitimate contractors. Homeowners whose home and other property is damaged are prime targets.

If roofs, windows, fences, or patio coverings are damaged, or if you've got downed trees that should be removed the CCB has the following advice:

- Check to make sure the contractor is properly licensed. Consumers should verify a contractor's CCB license at [www.oregon.gov/CCB](http://www.oregon.gov/CCB), or 503-378-4621 before signing a home repair contract or paying any money.

- Be wary of door-to-door repair solicitations, contractors using vehicles with out-of-state license plates and "too-good-

## County jobless rate sharply increased

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.7 percent in November, a significant increase from the previous month (7.7%) and higher than the year before (5.7%). The rate was higher than the statewide rate (8.1%) and the national rate (6.7%). Total employment dropped by 101 to 23,084 and the number of unemployed people rose by 367 to 2,158. Total employment this November was 217 fewer than one year before and there were 772 more people unemployed this year.

to-be-true" bids.

- Don't pay 100 percent of the bill before the repairs are properly completed.

"If you've been a victim of the storm, don't become a victim to a scam artist," said CCB spokesperson Gina Fox. "Scam artists come out of the woodwork after severe weather to prey on people anxious to get their home fixed."

The CCB is the state agency licensing more than 45,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed by the CCB. Free consumer publications and other helpful tips are available at the CCB's website and 503-378-4621.

## Top Ten list for power outages

As the winter months arrive, you can never be too careful in making sure you are prepared for the winter power outages. Depending on how much damage is done by the storm, your power could be out for several hours to several days. Here is a list from the CampSafe Coalition of "must have" items to ensure that you and your family are safe during long power outages:

1. Battery Powered Lighting – when evening rolls around, battery powered lights and lamps provide a safe and reliable light source. Flashlights are handy for temporary uses, but battery powered camping lanterns can be used to light rooms, hallways, and stairs without the fear of an open flame candle.

2. Bottled Water – don't wait until the last minute to buy bot-

**Please see page 10**

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