United Way awarded $17,419.00 in emergency food and shelter fund for Columbia County

Columbia County has been awarded Federal funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program for Phase 27.

The State Set-Aside committee selected United Way of Columbia County to receive $17,419.00 for Emergency Food and Shelter programs. This is $14,640.00 less than was awarded last year for Phase 26.

A local board composed of representatives from the VFW, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, community churches, homeless and other community representatives, will determine how Columbia County funds are to be distributed.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

1. Be private voluntary non-profits or units of government

2. Have an accounting system

3.Practice nondiscrimination and provide a copy of their policy.

4. Have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs within Columbia County.

5. If it is a private voluntary organization, it must have a voluntary board.

6. Organizations must have a permanent Columbia County presence.

Qualifying organizations are urged to apply for a portion of the $17,419.00. Completed applications must be submitted by noon, Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

To request an application, contact the United Way of Columbia County call 503-556-3614 or email uwcc@hotmail.com. Send applications to Attn: EFSP Board, P.O. Box 538, Rainier, OR 97048.

Annual County Job & Career Fair

Don't miss the 13th annual Columbia County Job and Career Fair on April 22, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 165 S 14th Street, St. Helens.

Plan to attend MTC Works and WorkSource Oregon Employment Department's 13th annual Job and Career Fair. There will be a wide variety of employers from SW Washington and Oregon represented at this event. The event is free to job seekers. Please be prepared to interview when attending this event.

Council selects engineering firm to update wastewater plan

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water Treatment Plan. The committee selected Brown and Caldwell as the most qualified, from a final list of three firms, before finding out they had also submitted the lowest bid. Brown and Caldwell will do an existing facilities review before formulating alternatives and acting as project manager for the plan chosen. The firm was also asked to be sure that Vernonia is positioned to take advantage of any federal stimulus dollars available for such a project.

Johnson also reported that Dick Titus had been chosen to remove the Old City Hall annex, which will be done later this month.

After further discussion of the utility bill concerns of Leo Stoddard regarding charges for multiple residential units, Council agreed to make no changes to utility rates until after the rate study that is planned for this summer has been completed.

In other business, council:

• Approved the second reading of an ordinance setting up an Emergency Preparedness Committee for the city;

• was told by Mayor Sally Harrison that the Airport Committee has reinstated Mike Seager as Airport Manager;

• heard that Officer Carnahan facilitated the donation of three portable defibrillators from the Coburn Fire Dept. Officers will be trained April 18 to use the new equipment.

The next city council meeting will be April 20 at City Hall starting at 7:00 p.m.

Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Monday	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
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., 410 North Street
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	2nd Wednesday	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	6:00 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	2nd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	6:00 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, 3rd & 4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Upper Nehalem Watershed Council		For Info Call 503-429-0869
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	1:00 p.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	6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Tuesday	Times vary, 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211

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.