

Most State offices close tomorrow, Sept. 17

Because of budget reductions for state agencies, most state offices will close on Friday, September 17, requiring 26,500 state employees to take mandatory unpaid furloughs on that day, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) announced Wednesday.

The closure on September 17 is the seventh of 10 closure dates the state has scheduled over the current two-year budget period. Each day of closure will save an estimated \$2 million in personnel costs, said DAS Director Scott Harra. While the closures affect both management and non-management employees, many state workers will take up to four additional days of unpaid furlough on a floating basis over the remainder of the biennium.

"We apologize for any inconvenience these closures might cause to the public, and we

look forward to restoration of a full work schedule for all state agencies when the economy returns to its normal strength," said DAS Director Scott Harra.

State agencies will do everything possible to minimize any hardship the closures might cause, Harra added. Customers can still do business with DMV and some other state agencies online, even though the offices are closed. Harra encouraged the public to check agencies' websites to find out whether online transactions are possible on the closure day.

Harra emphasized that certain state employees who provide essential services in public safety will remain on the job as usual—State Police officers, corrections officers and certain state hospital workers, for example.

The Oregon Department of Administrative Services has published information about

Friday's closure and furloughs on the state's website (www.Oregon.gov), along with a schedule of the remaining closure days. Members of the public can also find out which state offices will remain open on the closure days. Harra urged the public to check individual agencies' websites for additional information.

Corps of Engineers is seeking comments

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking comments on an application for a permit submitted by the Vernonia School District to conduct work in Columbia County.

The comment period closes September 27.

Public Notice NWP-2009-631 is available at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/g/pub lic.asp>.

Local farm working with Vernonia Cares

Ancient Earth Farms is now working together with Vernonia Cares Food Bank to offer a voucher program. Patrons of the food bank will be able to obtain a voucher, redeemable at Ancient Earth Farms for free produce.

Brenda Skeels-Yontz at Ancient Earth Farms said they "hope to help bridge the gap, for those going through hard times, between the food available at the food bank and fresh, nutritious produce."

Fresh produce currently

available at Ancient Earth Farms includes tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, lettuce and celery.

Ancient Earth Farms will switch, on the second week of October, to their fall/winter hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. They will be closed the first week of October for winter planting. They are located at 18209 Keasey Rd., Vernonia and can be reached by phone at 503-789-5597.

Learn about apprenticeship opportunities

Want a career where you are NOT stuck behind a desk? Plan to attend an open forum on apprenticeship programs to learn about rewarding careers with the building trade unions.

The forum will be held Friday, October 1, starting at 10:15 a.m. in the Loo Wit Room at St. Helens High School,

2375 Gable Rd., St. Helens.

Building trades include: Boilermakers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Cement Masons, Dry Wall, Electricians, Floor Coverers, Glassworkers, Insulators, Ironworkers, Laborers, Millwrights, Operating Engineers, Painters, Plumbers/Steamfitters,

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Community Calendar

VERNONIA			MIST-BIRKENFELD		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street	M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays (Big Book Study)	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street	M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue	M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin	M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church	M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	6:30 p.m., Library	M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018	Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081	T.O.P.S.	Mondays	9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
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			
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193			
Kiwanis Club	2nd & 4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong			
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong			
Municipal Airport Committee	1t Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall			
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 Garden Club	2nd Tuesday	1:30 p.m., Vernonia Library			
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall			
Vernonia Health Center	3rd Thursday	6:30 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	10:00 a.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			
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC			
			BANKS		
			Alcoholics Anonymous	Friday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
			Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
			American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesday	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	Sunday, Wednesday	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
			Everybody's Hometown Band	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., BHS Music Room
			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.	Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
			COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
			Board of Commissioners	Wednesday	10:00 a.m., Courthouse
			Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
			Columbia Comm Mental Health	1st Tuesday	5:30 p.m., 58646 McNulty Way
			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