

Apply now for Century Farm/Ranch program or Sesquicentennial Award

Applications are now being accepted for the 2011 award year of the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program, a statewide recognition program honoring farmers and ranchers who have worked the same land for at least 100 years. Applications are also available for the Sesquicentennial Award, introduced by the program in 2008, honoring families with farms or ranches continuously worked for 150 years or more. To date, 1,117 families have formally received the Century designation and 22 families have received the Sesquicentennial Award.

In its 53rd year, the program is administered through the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation (OAEF) in Salem, and is partially funded by the Oregon Farm Bureau, the State Historic Preservation Office (Department of Parks & Recreation), the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Travel Information Council, various

county farm bureaus, agriculture-based organizations and individuals.

Family farmers and ranchers throughout Oregon are encouraged to apply for the Century Award and/or the Sesquicentennial Award by the June 1 deadline. Successful applicants receive a personalized certificate with acknowledgment by the governor and the director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A durable metal road side sign to identify the farm or ranch as having Century or Sesquicentennial status is also available. Each family will be honored during a special ceremony and reception at the Oregon State Fair September 3, at 3:00 p.m.

For more information on the program or to obtain application guidelines for either award, visit www.oregonfb.org or contact Sharon Leighty, Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator at 503-400-7884 or cfr@oregonfb.org.

Scammers use tragedies for gain

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be pleased to receive a contribution by check. Don't send contributions with a "runner," by wire or overnight parcel pick-up service.

- Beware of calls, emails and texts requesting fast money. If you are unfamiliar with the charity, always ask for written materials. No legitimate organization will insist that you donate immediately. Watch out for solicitors who employ dramatic, emotional or heart-tugging stories. For example:

Dear Sir/ Madam,

My Name is Abdul Colins, I am the head of the Malaysia humanitarian aid to japan.

Japan has suffered the worst disaster since WWII. The earthquake and tsunami that took place recently have killed over 10,000 people and caused widespread damage. There are at least 100,000 people who are in mourning for their lost loved ones or who are injured.

There are many more that are without food, water or electricity. A lot of children are homeless, it has been a sad and bad story to tell for some of us that have been there.

We will appreciate whatever you can afford to assist the little children and some homeless families.

Please use the name blow to send whatever u can through western union Money Transfer.

Name: Abdul Colins

Address: 17A, Jalan Kuchin Seksyen, Mahkota Melaka, Malaysia

After you have send the money, email to us the western union money transfer control number or you can attach and forward to us the western union money transfer receipt so that we can pick up the money fast for their help.

Thanks for your help

Abdul Colins

Scammers and identity thieves pose a significant threat to Oregon consumers. Last year Oregonians reported losing nearly \$2 million to scams. The Oregon Department of Justice is committed to protecting Oregon consumers. Anyone who thinks they may have been contacted by a scammer should call Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or go to www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov.

Columbia County farmers may qualify for disaster aid

Columbia County farmers are eligible for disaster assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for potential losses from January's storms.

President Barack Obama declared a disaster for several Oregon counties, including Clatsop County, on February 17, for damage from rain and landslides that occurred January 13-21, 2010. This declara-

tion included programs from the USDA and, due to the way the USDA disaster declaration process works, farmers in counties contiguous to those counties declared are also eligible, making the declaration applicable to Columbia County.

This declaration opens up certain types of assistance for farmers, according to Derek White with Columbia County Emergency Management,

which deals with major emergency preparedness and response. "Farmers here are able to apply for disaster assistance from the Farm Service Agency. That assistance, if the applicant is eligible, ranges from emergency loans to supplemental revenue assistance payments", White says.

Farmers have until October 17 to apply. Assistance applications must be filed at the nearest Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, which is located at: Washington County FSA, 1080 SW Baseline, Suite B2, Hillsboro, OR 97123.

For questions about the program, contact the Washington County FSA office at 503-648-3174.

County jobless rate remains unchanged

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was to 12.2 percent in January, unchanged from the previous month (12.2%) but lower than the year before (12.7%). The rate was above the statewide rate (10.4%) and the national rate (9.0%). Total employment dropped by 136 to 21,645 and the number of unemployed people increased by 297 to 3,235. Total employment this January was 439 more than one year before and there were 162 fewer people unemployed this year.

Council approves other business

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In other business, council:

- approved two Funds Verification Reports, one for \$3,409 for Columbia County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Commission, and the other for \$6,000 to LOC for the city administrator hiring process (opposed by Parrow).

- authorized the police chief to update the Vernonia Police Dept. policy manual.

- approved Resolution 08-11 adopting new and revised council rules.

- approved Resolution 09-11 authorizing Dan Brown, CAT Flood Administrator, to approve decreasing contract price on Flood Mitigation Demolition Project contracts.

The next city council meeting is scheduled for March 21, starting at 7:00 p.m., at city hall.

Resource Fair for young people with intellectual, developmental disabilities

Project Employ, a training and technical assistance program for young people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, will offer a free Mini-Conference and Resource Fair, open to the general public, on Wednesday, April 20, from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m., at Westview High School, 4200 NW 185th Ave., Portland.

Project Employ is a joint project of the Arc of Oregon and the state Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. It has been partnering with families and community organizations in Washington County throughout the 2010-11 school year, providing training and technical assistance to help students successfully transition from school to employment.

The Mini-Conferences and Resource Fair are designed to assist students with developmental disabilities age 16 – 21, and their families learn about

the resources and services available to help them become successful in their pursuit to employment and/or higher education. The Resource Fair will feature a variety of workshops, speakers, and exhibitors providing information about transition and employment services. Representatives from self-directed support service brokerages, Washington County Developmental Disabilities Program, Vocational Rehabilitation Services and benefits counselors will be participating.

Washington County Developmental Disability Services provides case management services to a number of the individuals who receive services in Project Employ, and links them with resources for long-term support.

For more information, contact Cynthia Owens, The Arc of Oregon at 503-581-2726, or objectemploy@arcoregon.org.

Redistricting determined by law

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tion for them in their State Legislature," said House Redistricting Committee Co-Chair Chris Garrett (D-Lake Oswego)

"Redistricting is not just about lines on a map. The type of representation that local communities send to Salem and Washington, D.C., will be in large part determined by the shape these districts take. These hearings are an opportunity for communities to identify the type of voice they want to represent them, and what other communities they have commonalities with," said Senate Redistricting Committee Vice-Chair Chris Telfer.

The Oregon Legislature has the responsibility of redrawing

the state's 60 House districts and 30 Senate districts, as well as the five U.S. Congressional districts, following the release of the federal census. The criteria that the Legislature will consider when drawing legislative and congressional boundaries includes maintaining contiguity, equal population, existing geographic or political boundaries, communities of interest and connection by transportation links.

Visit the State of Oregon Redistricting website at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/redistricting/> for additional information about the redistricting process, the public hearings and to view the full schedule of locations and times.