

## Who will be biggest energy loser?

Banks, along with North Plains, is getting ready to go on a diet...an energy diet, that is! With the help of Portland General Electric, Energy Trust of Oregon, Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community, and Adapt Engineering, the cities are going to see what it will take to lose some of their kWh and therm carbon pounds.

The contest begins now, with each community identifying five to ten businesses that want assistance shedding unwanted energy. Participants

will receive free energy consultations to help them learn what steps they can take to reduce energy use. Incentives and/or rebates available to help offset the cost of changes will also be identified.

For example, simply turning off your computer at night and on weekends can save \$15 per computer, per year.

Find out who is the biggest (energy) loser after the energy consultations have been completed.

## County seeks nominations for 10th Public Health Award

As part of the 2012 National Public Health Week celebration (April 2-8), Washington County's Department of Health and Human Services will honor an individual and an organization that have made significant contributions to public health in the county. Nominations are being accepted now through March 9.

The 10th Annual Public Health Recognition Awards will be presented on Thursday, April 5, 9:00 a.m., in Washington County's Charles D. Cameron Public Services Building, Shirley Huffman Audi-

torium, 155 N. First Avenue, Hillsboro.

Nominee criteria:

- Work focuses in Washington County
- Demonstrates public health best practices
- Projects or activities are sustainable, making a lasting impact on the community
- Nominees also may have created new partnerships, systems or policy changes.

Download a nomination form at [www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/](http://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/) or call Wendy Gordon at 503-846-3634 to request one.

## Boone asks Congress to fund Coast Guard

The Oregon House of Representatives passed House Joint Memorial 202 on February 7, urging the US Congress to fully fund the United States Coast Guard, which saves, on an average day, 12 lives, investigates 13 marine accidents, and responds to 64 search and rescue cases, and ensures safety and stability for trade and tourism in our waters.

"The US Coast Guard protects our waters daily with efficiency and dignity," said Representative Deborah Boone (D-Cannon Beach), "fully funding their efforts to ensure that fishermen, traders and tourists are safe should be a priority of our Congress."

There are three Coast Guard stations in Boone's House District, Astoria, Warrenton and Garibaldi. Federal funding will keep those facilities operating efficiently with adequate crews and needed equipment. In addition, the Coast Guard's enforcement area continues to increase on the west coast. The Coast Guard has been operating in the Arctic since Alaska became a United States Territory, as-

sisting in scientific exploration, charting the waters, providing humanitarian assistance to native tribes and conducting search and rescue and law enforcement operations. As open water continues to replace ice, human activity is increasing in Arctic waters, substantially expanding the Coast Guard's response area. Having additional equipment strategically placed in the Arctic region, will shorten Coast Guard response times and increase life-saving efforts.

Boone introduced HJM 202 as part of an effort of the Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force, an association of legislators from Oregon, Alaska, Washington, Idaho and California. Similar legislation is being introduced in all five states to encourage Congressional support for full funding of the United States Coast Guard.

House Joint Memorial 202 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

## ODFW announces art contest

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife invites artists to enter its Habitat Conservation Stamp art contest. The winning artist will receive \$3000 and his or her artwork will be used to produce a stamp and other promotional items. Deadline for entries is 5:00 p.m. on February 29, 2012.

Artwork must feature one of the fish or wildlife species identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy in its respective Strategy habitat. There are 286 native species and 11 habitats

called out in the Strategy, which is available on ODFW's website.

See the ODFW website for a copy of the announcement, rules and entry form, [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/habitat\\_conservation\\_stamp.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/habitat_conservation_stamp.asp).

The contest winner will be chosen by a panel comprised of a Fish and Wildlife Commissioner and four citizens to be selected by ODFW's Director. Artwork will be available for public viewing.

### Letters

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posed to each of us having to pay for a separate collection.

So, if you would like to keep both our courts and the Columbia County Law Library as ongoing resources for all of us when we need them, you might want to convey this to both Rep. Brad Witt (1-503-986-1130) and Sen. Betsy Johnson (1-503-986-1716) as these budget cuts are currently being considered.

Yours truly,

Michael F. Sheehan  
Scappoose

The city panel of at least 5 people expressed their "discontent" of said request and were "clear" as to the fact that "underground" mean "underground." But, the \$80,000 up in fee swayed the panel to approve said request, although unwillingly. I said, "...so much money already spent on this project, do it right! (as power company will not keep up with repairs?!)"

I expressed my feelings of our first mistake being hiring a company from out-of-state to trust in building in this area and in these conditions I'm sure they are unaware of (I also hope the flat roof to hold a roof garden and solar equipment and hopefully not cave-in. Not sure if the flat roof will hold up to the weight of the snow in heavy winters!).

Only to hope and wish the best for this spectacular building to go forth in the success and education of our kids.

Virginia Kepner  
Vernonia

#### Questioned change of requirements

To the Editor:

When I attended the Planning Commission meeting on 10/13/11, I was the only one to stand up and "object" to the Superintendent's request to change a Condition of Approval, that required underground utilities. (city file no: CUP/SD10-02).

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