

EPA awards \$200k for Vernonia Brownfield cleanup

SEATTLE – State and local governments in Oregon will receive over \$2.1 million in EPA Brownfields funding to help breathe new life into contaminated properties and revitalize former industrial sites.

EPA Brownfields Grants fund site assessments and site cleanups, supporting local efforts to clean up contamination or otherwise make land useable for housing, community space or commercial development. EPA also provides often cash-strapped communities a much-needed boost to bring abandoned lands back into productive use.

City of Vernonia will receive a \$200,000 Community-wide Assessment grant which will be used to inventory Brownfield sites throughout the city, perform environmental site assessments, and conduct community outreach. Contact:

William Haack, 503-429-5291.

City of Eugene will receive a \$680,200 Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant that will be used to establish a coalition with the City of Springfield and Lane County to develop a Brownfields inventory and conduct environmental site assessments within their three jurisdictions.

Northeast Oregon Economic Development District will receive a \$400,000 Community-wide Assessment Grant to inventory and prioritize brownfield sites and conduct environmental site assessments on properties located throughout Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties in northeastern Oregon. This project will include community outreach and cleanup planning activities.

City of Troutdale will receive a \$200,000 grant to perform an environmental site assessment

and conduct community outreach and cleanup planning activities at the Troutdale Riverfront Redevelopment property at 302 NW 257th Way. The site, which sits on the bank of the Sandy River, operated as a

slaughterhouse and rendering plant from 1901 to the late 1960s.

See list of all awarded Brownfields grants by state: http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf_fact-sheets/

Job hunt harder for older workers

by Chris Thomas, Oregon News Service

PENDLETON, Ore. – A new report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) focuses on the challenges of job-hunting for people over age 55, and how longer periods of unemployment and lower wages upon re-employment affect older workers' retirement security.

Its findings aren't surprising to Scot Jacobsen, who directs the Pendleton-based Senior Community Service Employment Program for Morrow and

Umatilla counties. He says part of his job is to help rebuild the confidence of older workers who have been discouraged by their job-hunt, "They feel worthless. It's interesting, because when we go back over their resumes, they're very impressive. A lot of times, they forget all the good things they've done over the years. We take those skills, try to sharpen 'em up and send 'em back out there."

Companies are reluctant to hire people over 55, the report

says, because employers assume their health insurance costs will rise and that older

See Hunt on page 17

Jobs rate stays flat in county

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.4 percent in April, essentially unchanged from the previous month (9.3%), but lower than the year before (10.4%). The rate was higher than the statewide rate (8.5%) and the national rate (8.1%). Total employment rose by 121 to 22,529 and the number of unemployed people fell by 194 to 2,349. Total employment this April was 260 more than one year before and there were 151 fewer people unemployed this year.

The Portland metro area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.9 percent in April.

Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays (Big Book Study)	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street
American Legion Post #119	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., WGS 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., Library
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
Emerg. Preparedness Comm.	4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., WOEC
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 Tuesdays	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
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Grange
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 Comm. Learning Center	1st Wednesday	5:00 p.m., VCLC
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 Library Board	1st Wednesday	9:00 a.m., Sept-June, Library
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	6:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 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 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

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	3rd 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	9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station

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	7:00 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 9-1-1 Board	3rd Thursday	9:00 a.m., 9-1-1 meeting room
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	2nd Thursday	4:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
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.