

Clark County awarded \$2.72 million for energy conservation efforts

Clark County home- and business-owners could receive free energy audits, heating duct inspections and incentives for energy conservation work under a \$2.29 million federal grant Clark County received late last month.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, one of two energy-related awards the county received recently, will improve energy efficiency and conservation in the community and create jobs to boost the local economy. The money comes from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

About half of the two-year grant will go for energy audits and heating duct inspections in homes and businesses. Eligible property owners who schedule an appointment will receive conservation tips, referrals to area heating and cooling contractors able to seal ducts, and a coupon for a building permit and inspection. Details about how to sign up for the program will be announced early in 2010.

The grant also will pay for "smart" computer power strips in the county's Information Services Department, LED bulbs for county traffic signals, a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at Washington State University's Clark County Extension Research Station at 1919 N.E. 78th St., biomass power at county facilities, and energy improvements for moderate-income families and small businesses in the Hazel Dell area.

Also, the county this week received the last portion of a \$435,000 incentive payment from Clark Public Utilities. It will help pay for nearly \$7.78 million in energy improvements made to county buildings this year. The incentive money, which was about \$79,000 more than originally estimated, recognizes the county's contribution to keeping overall energy consumption down.

The money will help pay for solar panels, solar water heaters, software for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and other improvements.

Northwest Classical Ballet performs *The Nutcracker* at Brush Prairie High



First two photos features Briley Jozwiak, and in the last two, the Snow Corp.

Northwest Classical Ballets presents its world premiere of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, with all new choreography, and directed by **Maricar Drilon**, 7:30 p.m. tonight and Friday, Dec. 3-4, and 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Prairie High School, 11500 NE 117th Avenue. Tickets cost \$11 and can be purchased at The Aurora Gallery, 1004 Main Street, **696-0449**, or NW Classical Ballet, 14511 NE 10th Avenue, during class hours, and at the door.

Community food drives deliver for those in need

More than 24,000 pounds of food have been donated to Share in the past two months, which will benefit the 650 children participating in Share's Backpack Program, as well as Share's Hot Meals Program. Additionally, the community answered Share's call for Thanksgiving food boxes, which were provided to 300 local families, in addition to providing 650 supplemental food packs for participants of Share's Backpack Program.

Most recently, a food drive was organized by **Rip Ramsey** with Bulldogs Baseball Academy, a premier league for youth ages nine to 14. On the weekend of Nov. 21-22, 60 participants of the Academy went door-to-door in their "Striking Out Hunger in Clark County" food drive and collected more than 4,500 lbs. of non-perishable food items. This is the fourth year the Academy had held a food drive for Share.

The Downtown Vancouver Rotary collected 5,000 lbs. of food, as well as raising \$33,000 on Saturday,

Nov. 28, at Festival of Trees. Additional food drives included "Stuff the Bus," organized by the Classified Staff of Evergreen Public Schools in October, which brought in 8,325 lbs., a food drive competition between Evergreen and Union High Schools in early Nov., which generated more than 6,000 lbs., and an Amtrak food drive that brought in 550 lbs.

Numerous businesses, organizations and individuals helped Share to fill Thanksgiving food boxes and supplemental food packs for the Backpack Program. These include the following: Resers, which donated supplemental food for 1,000 food packs; **Michael Brusseau** and Bank of America, which donated 25 turkeys; **Gary and Cindy Stecher**, who donated 35 completed food boxes; and, also, Biggs Insurance, **Tim Lannigan**, **Tony Bernatovicz**, River Rock Church, East Woods Presbyterian Church, Community of Christ Church, **Marvin Schwarz**, **Steve Wold**, **Janice Shipley**, **Kuni Automotive**, **Tami Thompson**, and **Tiana and Dan Meckel**.

Community need for food assistance continues to increase in Clark County. For help in organizing a food drive or to arrange a drop-off of collected food, contact **Tarinn Smith**, hunger response director, at **695-7658** ext. **3304** or hungerresponse@sharevancouver.org.

News Briefs

Throughout 2009, over 1500 students and adults have explored the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument through the Mount St. Helens Institute's field classes, guided climbs, guest presentations and lecture series. Help support science education with a donation by visiting <http://www.mshinstitute.org/donate>. Those who prefer to mail a check may send it to Mount St Helens Institute, 42218 NE Yale Bridge Road, Amboy, WA 98601. <> Join The Compassionate Friends, an organization that assists families in their grief following the death of a child of any age by providing information and support, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 426 East Fourth Plain Blvd. Gathering time is Sunday, Dec. 13, 6:30 to 6:54 p.m., candle lighting at 7 p.m., and reading of children's names and music at 7:10 p.m. There will be a reception immediately following. For more information or to have your child's name read, contact **Kathy Deschner** at **573-3206**, email kathy_deschner@yahoo.com, or **Lorna Bradford** at **213-9587**, email lorna979@hotmail.com.

Calendar

The 9th Annual Festival of Nativities exhibit begins today, Dec. 3, running through Sunday, Dec. 6, noon to 9 p.m. each day, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10509 SE 5th Street. Admission is free. The display consists of over 600 nativity scenes from around the world. There will be original artwork, live musical performances, and children's activities. Children and families can also dress up in costume and get a photo taken in a nativity scene. For more information on performances and directions, visit <http://www.festivalofnativities.org/>. <> Ridgefield City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 N Main Avenue. <> Magenta Theater presents *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, a performance whose three characters decide to perform every Christmas story ever told and every carol ever sung, as well as present Christmas traditions from around the world and seasonal icons from ancient times to today's pop culture. Performances are 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 3-5, in the Magenta Theater, 606 Main Street. Tickets cost \$10-\$15. To purchase tickets, call **635-4358** or email tickets@magentatheater.com. <> The 2009 annual poinsettia sale benefiting Hospice Southwest is now at Memorial Health Center, 3400 Main Street, today and tomorrow, Dec. 3-4. Poinsettias can also be purchased online by [clicking here](#). For questions, call **696-5056**.

Thursday on the air

Clark Homeless Engagement Collaboration - Report to the Community (10-30)--3:15 p.m. CVTV

Accomplished and Under 40 (11-12)--4:59 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (11-19)--6:09 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (live)--6:55 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Jaime Gross experiencing "New Moon". <> **Grant Job** searching for interesting new coffee. <> **Shay Shinall** organizing another great gathering. <> **Bobby Forbes** sending along great news. <>

Thursday, mostly sunny, 44-32. **Friday**, sunny, 49-30. **Saturday**, sunny, 46-32.