

COLUMBIA COUNTY



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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COUNTY FURLOUGHS DEAL WITH BUDGET SHORTFALL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners approved the implementation of furlough days throughout the rest of 2009 through June 2010 for county departments, with the exception of the Road & Parks Department. All County offices, except the Road & Parks Departments, will be closed to the public on these furlough days.

This action is being taken as a result of budget shortfalls due to the recession that Oregon and the economy in general has been facing. Of the County's 175 positions, up to 16 jobs in various county departments could have been affected without the implementation of the furlough, an early retirement program, and a pay freeze for managers and elected officials.

"We had a choice, said Commissioner Tony Hyde, the County's budget officer, "We could reduce the budget through furloughs, a pay freeze and early retirement, or we could lay people off." "The Board chose to retain jobs and provide the least impact on services

to the public", he said. The County appreciates its partnership with the Unions that have worked with it to develop the furlough plan. Without their cooperation, this would not have been possible.

The furlough days as approved by the Board are:

September 4, 2009

November 25, 2009

December 24, 2009

January 4, 2009

March 26, 2010

April 23, 2010

May 28, 2010

June 18, 2010

The public should be aware that on the scheduled furlough days there will be no County services open to the public except at the Road and Parks Departments, and limited access for State Court Services, which as of this date, will be open for business as usual.

Anyone needing information regarding County operating hours or whether a certain department is open can contact the County Information number at 503-397-7210. Also, information regarding the Courthouse closures or departmental phone numbers can be found on the County website at

<http://www.co.columbia.or.us>"MACROBUTTONHtmlResAnchorwww.co.columbia.or.us