County training program featured in federal report

The Columbian

The U.S. Department of Energy has highlighted a Clark County training program as a federal stimulus success story.

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council received $1 million to train workers to perform home energy upgrades. Through a partnership with Clark College and Vancouver contractor Richart Family Inc., the students got on-the-job training and attended classes to receive Building Performance Institute Energy Analyst and BPI-Shell certifications.

The program has trained 43 students who are now working at Richart, according to the report.

Three other successful state programs that received federal stimulus money were featured in the Recovery Act spending report released this week.

Pfizer wants to expand animal health business

Focus is on new drugs for pets, genetic tests for livestock

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Pfizer Inc., the world's biggest seller of drugs for people, now is looking to make more bucks from Fido, Fifi and farm animals.

The company is developing drugs for new animal diseases, pushing into the growing market for pet medicine in emerging markets and working with livestock farmers to use its genetic tests to reduce costs and produce top-quality meat.

Despite that strategy, Pfizer will be bumping from its position as the top animal health company by revenue when a planned joint venture of rivals gets approved by regulators, probably early next year. Merck & Co. and Sanofi-Aventis SA are combining their animal health businesses into what will be called Merial-Intervet. It is expected to initially have about 28 percent of the $19 billion-a-year global animal health market.

Pfizer's president of animal health, Juan Raman Alain, is unfazed, saying his unit will remain first in innovation, with a $300 million research budget, and first in service to veterinarians and farmers.

"We have the portfolio to become the provider of preference," he said Thursday.

Pfizer beefed up its animal health product line with last October's $66 billion purchase of drugmaker Wyeth, including its Fort Dodge veterinary medicine business. That should boost Pfizer to about a 20 percent share of the market.

Last year, its animal health business had $2.8 billion in sales. This year, sales hit $1.7 billion in the first six months.

The global market is expected to continue growing at 4 percent to 6 percent annually for the next few years, fueled by trends such as a growing elderly population wanting pets and the middle class in emerging markets eating more meat.

Pfizer, aiming to grow more

J&J division chief amid investigation

NEW YORK (AP) — The head of the Johnson & Johnson division responsible for most of the company's 11 product recalls announced her retirement late Thursday, shortly after a congressional committee probing the recalls invited her to a second hearing on the case.

J&J, reeling from an unprecedented spate of recalls that includes more than 135 million bottles of infants' and children's Tylenol and other nonprescription medicines, said Colleen Goggins will retire on March 1 after almost 30 years with the company.