

Events

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Come 'paw-ty' with puppies on April 6

Marion County Dog Services is hosting a free Puppy "Paw-ty" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Marion County Public Works Building, 5155 Silvertown Road NE.

Marion County Dog Services considers itself the last chance for many dogs in the Salem-area community. Last year, over 1,300 dogs walked through Marion County Dog Services' doors, including over 750 dogs who were reunited with their owners and over 400 that were adopted to new homes.

The Puppy "Paw-ty" will be like a baby shower — the event is intended to help gather much needed supplies for Marion County Dog Services foster care program. Namely, to help dogs with medical and dental needs and offer our foster care volunteers all the supplies they need at no cost to them.

You can bring a gift off of the Marion County Dog Services Amazon wish list, which can be found at www.MCDogs.net and clicking the Puppy "Paw-ty" flier.

The "paw-ty" will feature games for all ages, refreshments, free drawings and foster care-giving education. A dozen or so puppies will be present, adoption applications will be accepted and you can chat with current foster care volunteers.

Donations are also accepted online at www.MCDogs.net by clicking the "donate" link.

Check out more information at face-



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COURTESY MARION COUNTY DOG SERVICES

book.com/marioncounty.dogshelter.

Debra Herring Studio accepting donations to assist Center for Hope and Safety

Debra Herring Studio is currently hosting a donation drive to assist Center for Hope and Safety.

The drive will gather women's accessories and other necessities to help survivors of domestic violence. Donations will be accepted throughout April at Debra Herring Studio, 4093 Commercial St. SE. The studio is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Suggested items include gently-worn

women's clothing and accessories or personal care items.

"Each year I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our clients," boutique owner Debra Herring said. "It's a pleasure for us to work with the Center for Hope and Safety to facilitate this drive to help women start over in healthy situations. Every year, customers donate hundreds of items that women in crisis need."

Donors will receive a special gift from Debra Herring Studio. Individuals can also purchase raffle tickets for a gift basket valued at over \$500. All raffle proceeds will go to the Center for Hope and Safety.

There will be a store event from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, with the raffle drawing at 5:30 p.m.

To find out more, go to DebraHerringStudio.com or call 503-375-3750.

Hop over to St. Paul for rhododendron garden opening

Spring has arrived, and that means the Cecil and Molly Smith Rhododendron Garden in St. Paul is opening this weekend. The garden is located at 5055 Raybell Road NE in St. Paul.

The garden is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from Saturday, April 6, to Sunday, May 19.

Admission is \$3 for non-American Rhododendron Society Members.

The garden features over 600 of species and hybrid rhododendrons in a beautiful woodland setting, along with ground covers of cyclamen and other plants, the garden said in a release. The garden's paths are flat, walker-friendly and have benches for sitting and viewing.

Customized tours for groups of 10 or

more can be arranged by calling 503-625-6331. For more information, go to smithgarden.org.

Summer camps on tap at GeerCrest Farm & Historical Society

GeerCrest Farm & Historical Society is looking to spread the word about their specialty summer camps.

GeerCrest Farm, located at 12390 Sunnyview Road NE, is one of the oldest farm houses in Oregon. They are a non-profit that specializes in outdoor education, art programs and farm life, as well as the rich history of the Willamette Valley.

Summer camps are gender specific and available for ages 8-16. Campers stay on the farm and sleep in one of GeerCrest Farm's forest cabins. Camps focus on household chores in the morning, traditional crafts and skills in the afternoon and evening animal chores, with outdoor activities and harvesting from the garden, orchard and berry patches, as well as free time.

Upcoming camps are scheduled for June 24-28 (female camp), July 8-12 (male camp), July 22-26 (female camp) and Aug. 26-30 (female camp).

GeerCrest Farm offers day-camp and overnight schedules. Cost for an overnight camp is \$660, which includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, and \$330 for day camp, which includes breakfast and lunch.

For more information, contact GeerCrest Farm & Historical Society at 503-873-3406 or info@geercrest.org, or go to www.geercrest.org/camps.

Reach Lee Clarkson at lclarkson@StatesmanJournal.com.

Wildflower

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squashing any blossoms with an errant bootstep.

Grass widows have a reticent beauty. Maybe it's because they are such early bloomers. Since they have little competition for the affection of pollinators, they have no need to demand attention with large flowers and heavy perfumes. The early spring insects will find them, pollinate them and, later, seeds will develop. But seeds are promises that aren't always fulfilled. There is no guarantee that they will germinate and grow. So, grass widows hedge their reproductive bets by growing bulbs in addition to seeds.

A bulb is an underground food storage structure that encases a tiny pre-packaged plant. Its reserves provide developmental nutrients to the sprout. A bulb will split and form new bulbs and the next generation will get its start.

I lift my gaze from the flowers to take

in the immense view that this high tableland provides. The mighty Columbia glides silently by. The water that has drained from nearly a quarter of a million square miles passes in front of us. 175 miles downstream, the Pacific Ocean receives the river's flow. The rain that falls here and sustains my beloved grass widows will trickle down to Mosier Creek and then join the Columbia. In the big river it will flow through the gills of salmon and sturgeon and catch the shadows of soaring bald eagles and ospreys. In the Pacific it will become salty and carry millions of drifting plankton that nourish whales and clams and countless other organisms. Everything in nature is linked to everything else. I came here today seeking wildflowers but I leave with a momentary flash of insight into the essence of nature and all its boundless interconnections.

Bobbie Snead is a local naturalist and nature educator who leads more than 50 hikes each year for all ages. She can be reached at naturalist.column@gmail.com.



Oak snag is found on the Mosier Plateau.

PHOTOS BY BOBBIE SNEAD/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL



Grass widow is found on the Columbia Plateau.

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