

Community... A Continued Series

St. Mary's Quilt Fair: The Warmth of Fall for 43 years!

By Jill Hult

As we begin to feel summer's end with the cooler air, we naturally look for ways to feel the warmth of the sun while chimneys slowing begin to perk. We may lament that we are not ready for the cold but then we find a place that is ready to help us transition to the new season with warm quilts, homemade soups and desserts, warm drinks, many gifts to warm the soul or home, and most importantly the warmth of friendship and community that extends out to anyone who wants to come.

St. Mary's Quilt fair is a long standing event in Vernonia that showcases many of the residents' talent for all kinds of crafts such as scarfs, gloves, purses, decorations, jewelry, cookbooks, baked goods, blankets, and much more. Of course the main attraction is the quilts. And there are so many beautiful quilts-a whole room full-it is hard to decide which to buy! There are also vintage quilts and quilts that are solely for your admiration naturally because they are truly a work of art.

I could go on thinking of vivid descriptions of fall and items at the quilt fair, alas this continued series

of community events is also about what makes these wonderful offerings possible. We know it takes commitment, hard work, volunteers, and of course an audience, but who does it and how do they do it?

I recently asked Betty Schmidlin, chairperson for the event, to tell me a little more about how it all comes together.

Schmidlin told me that "...the quilt fair has been happening for 43 years in Vernonia and that St. Mary's ladies have been quilting for years though many of the original people have either passed on or moved away..." but that hasn't seemed to stop the event from attracting people who carry on the tradition. Thank goodness for us!

The event supports 1/3 of St. Mary's annual revenue and their costs vary from year to year; St. Mary's budgets for the expenses from their general fund. Betty said that they work with a skeleton crew and depend mainly on quilt and craft consignments. She explained that several people take on various aspects of the event including: Willamae Murray and Pat Kleinman who are in charge of quilts and crafts, respectively; Terry Lindauer who organizes the recipes and

cooks the soup for lunches; and Maria Lemay who works hard to advertise our event. The group starts planning for the event in early spring and attracts an amazing 30 volunteers plus school

children who help bus tables and assist the elderly at lunch.

I asked Schmidlin what challenges they have faced with the event. She explained that the economic downturn hit them hard but is hopeful that people feel they now have the resources to purchase these works of art.

Schmidlin also wanted to mention that they always have quilts on display that are not for sale. "This year we have several of Louise Smejkal's hand quilted ones and one of Esther Huntman's quilts on show. Both women were among those who initially started our annual quilt fair."

Currently they do not need more volunteers but if you have an interest in quilting or craft making, you can join them on Tuesdays at the Church hall.

Please join St. Mary's as they offer us a beautiful array of art in the form of warm quilts, crafts, food, and merriment. You may even win an amazing Star of Bethlehem quilt by purchasing raffle tickets at \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

The event runs from September 19 - 21, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM with lunch served at 11:00 AM. Admission to the event is \$1.



Smoking Rates Down in Columbia County

Oregon Health Authority recently released the 2013 County Tobacco Factsheets, and Columbia County shows improvement compared to the 2011 Factsheet.

The percentage of teens who smoke is down, especially for 8th graders. In Columbia County 5 percent of 8th graders smoke (state rate is 6 percent) and 17 percent of 11th graders (state rate is 12 percent). This is a decrease of 6 percent among 8th graders and a 3 percent decrease among 11th graders from 2011.

The number of babies born to smoking mothers has also decreased from 20 percent in 2011 to 18 percent in 2013. "In Oregon four out of five smokers want to quit, but struggle to break the addiction" said Ashley Baggett, Tobacco Prevention & Education Coordinator. In Columbia County the quit attempts are up from 37 percent to 41 percent.

There is still a long way to go as the number of adults who smoke has risen from 6,318 in 2011 to 6,930 in 2013. However the trend is still lower when

compared to the 7,143 people who smoked in 2009. Tobacco remains the number one preventable cause of death.

The costs of smoking are rising as well. Over 1,930 people in our county suffer from serious illnesses caused by tobacco, and 99 died from tobacco in the past year. \$18.7 million was spent on medical care for tobacco related illness, and another \$16.4 million was lost in productivity.

Baggett says much of the improvement in prevention is due to a change in tactics by creating smoke-free and tobacco-free environments and raising the cost of tobacco. If you are interested in creating healthy spaces in our community, please contact Ashley at abaggett@tphfcc.org or (503) 397-4651x2007.

If you are

interested in quitting tobacco help is available through the Oregon Quit Line. The Oregon Quit Line is highly successful in connecting smokers who want to quit with the local resources to help them at no cost. The Quit Line Teen Program is free for Oregonians 13 and older. Teens can connect online or by phone at the general Quit Line number. The numbers and websites are 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) or www.quitnow.net/oregon/. Spanish: 1-877-2NO-FUME (1-877-266-3863) or www.quitnow.net/oregonsp/. The Quit Line is open seven days a week, 4:00 AM to 12:00 AM (Pacific Time).

Be a Part of the Clatskanie Health and Safety Fair

Community members from Columbia County are invited to attend the Clatskanie Health and Safety Fair on Saturday October 5, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 2 :00 PM. The event will be held at the Clatskanie PUD.

Here are just a few of the highlights you can explore, experience and learn at the fair this year:

- Kids can bring their bikes to the Kiwanis Bicycle Rodeo and receive a free safety check and free helmet.
- The Clatskanie Rifle and Pistol Club will be giving away free gun locks.
- Life Fight will have a helicopter landing.
- Live Music by Victoria Kingsbury and Barney Perrine. Face painting by Megan Gillespie.
- Clatskanie Police will have a Prescription Drug Drop-off.
- Wauna Federal Credit Union will have a 4-Person Disaster Kit Raffle.
- The Vernonia Prevention Coalition will have information about gambling,

suicide and substance abuse.

- A healthy lunch will be available from Flowers and Fluff.
- Turning Point will sponsor a Fun Run.
- Safe Kids will have a Car Seat Safety Check.
- Smokey the Bear from the Department of Forestry.
- The Clatskanie Library will have Book and Story time.
- Community Action Team will have information about their Energy Program, and much more.

The fair is sponsored by Wauna Federal Credit Union, The Clatskanie PUD, United Way, Clatskanie Fire, The Kiwanis Club, Child and Family Development Programs, and the Clatskanie School District.

For questions about the fair contact one of the planning partners: Melissa Korsmo, Clatskanie PUD, 503-728-2163, melissa@clatskaniepud.com or Pam Weller, Wauna FCU, 503-728-6109, pam.weller@waunafcu.org.



Turning Point Community

Fresh Fruits & Vegetables



FREE

A new and exciting pilot program is being started up right here in your very own area.

We are proud to inform **ALL** residents of Clatskanie's neighboring communities that we will be a distribution point for a variety of fresh produce.

Each Tuesday morning a semi-truck will be delivering produce directly from California.

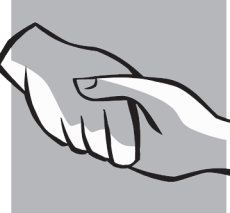
We will make this produce available to all who want it. There are no guidelines or qualifications.

This is not an income based program. This program is designed to help you offset the cost of groceries.

Examples of produce to be given away: Potatoes, Onions, Carrots, Apples, Pears, Etc.

Come on down and help yourself!!!!

Different Produce Available Each Week.



Turning Point Community Services Center

220 Columbia River Highway East
Clatskanie, OR 97016

Phone: 503-728-3126

E-mail:
turning_point@frontier.com



Community helping Community

Tues.—Fri

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Produce for your pantry

Mondays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Open to farmers for animal food