

# ELC bursting with springtime activities

JENNY CHAVEZ  
Copy Editor

Spring is here and with it comes diverse ELC activities including a river cleanup, nature workshops and the opening of the Haggart observatory.

### Clackamas River Cleanup

A scenic rafting trip down the Clackamas River between McIver and Barton Parks is the natural reward for participating in the Spring Clackamas River Cleanup Saturday. The cleanup is sponsored by the ELC and the Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) organization. SOLV, a statewide organization promoting environmental awareness, provides plastic garbage bags and helps with advertising. The State Park employees help as well and dispose of the bags of trash that volunteers collect. Instructor Don Shula has been a big contributor to the event for at least three years.

"We have had as many as 65

people help, including the scouts," he said. "We have found a motorcycle engine, PVC pipe, indoor/outdoor carpet and litter from people who party on the river. Sometimes we take masks and snorkels and dive down finding tires and cans."

Shula, who also runs a white water rafting business, donates rafts and life jackets for the event.

"I'm a concerned citizen and do this as a community outreach," he said. "A good thing is that every year we find less trash. I think people are being more careful and becoming more aware of the environment."

Though this event is full, two more trips are scheduled in July and September. Call Don Shula at ext. 2324 for registration and information.

### ELC Workshops

Signs of Spring nature journey at the Environmental Learning Center, led by Francesca Woodruff and Karen Olsen, will be held Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Adults and



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print  
Haggart Observatory is now open.

children will discover blooming flowers, ducklings and goslings, sunning turtles and bustling insects. The cost of the workshop is \$6.

Francesca Woodruff will follow up the day with a workshop for girls

ages 7 to 10 leading them in an exploration of pond and creek insects and plants while collecting samples to view under magnifiers. The Bugs! Insect Exploration for Girls will be held 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the ELC. The cost is \$6.

Animal Tracks workshops will be held at the Lakeside Education Hall at the ELC 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, May 25 and 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 26. The workshops focus on the exploration of animal tracking and learning to identify various animals and their behavior. The \$10 cost includes both workshops and ma-

terials. For more information about ELC activities, call 503-657-6958, ext. 2351.

### Haggart Observatory

The Haggart Observatory has been open since May 5, and clear Saturday evening skies have rewarded visitors with celestial sights. The official opening ceremony won't be until fall, but volunteers are currently running the observatory on Saturday nights. An expert answers visitors' questions while other volunteers greet people and share information about the observatory.

"There is still some small touch-up work like painting to do," said Francesca Woodruff, "but we are definitely encouraging people to come now. We are up and running."

There is no charge to view the skies at the Haggart Observatory but donations are accepted. For those who want to join the Saturday viewers but wonder about visibility due to weather, call ext. 2672 for observatory information.

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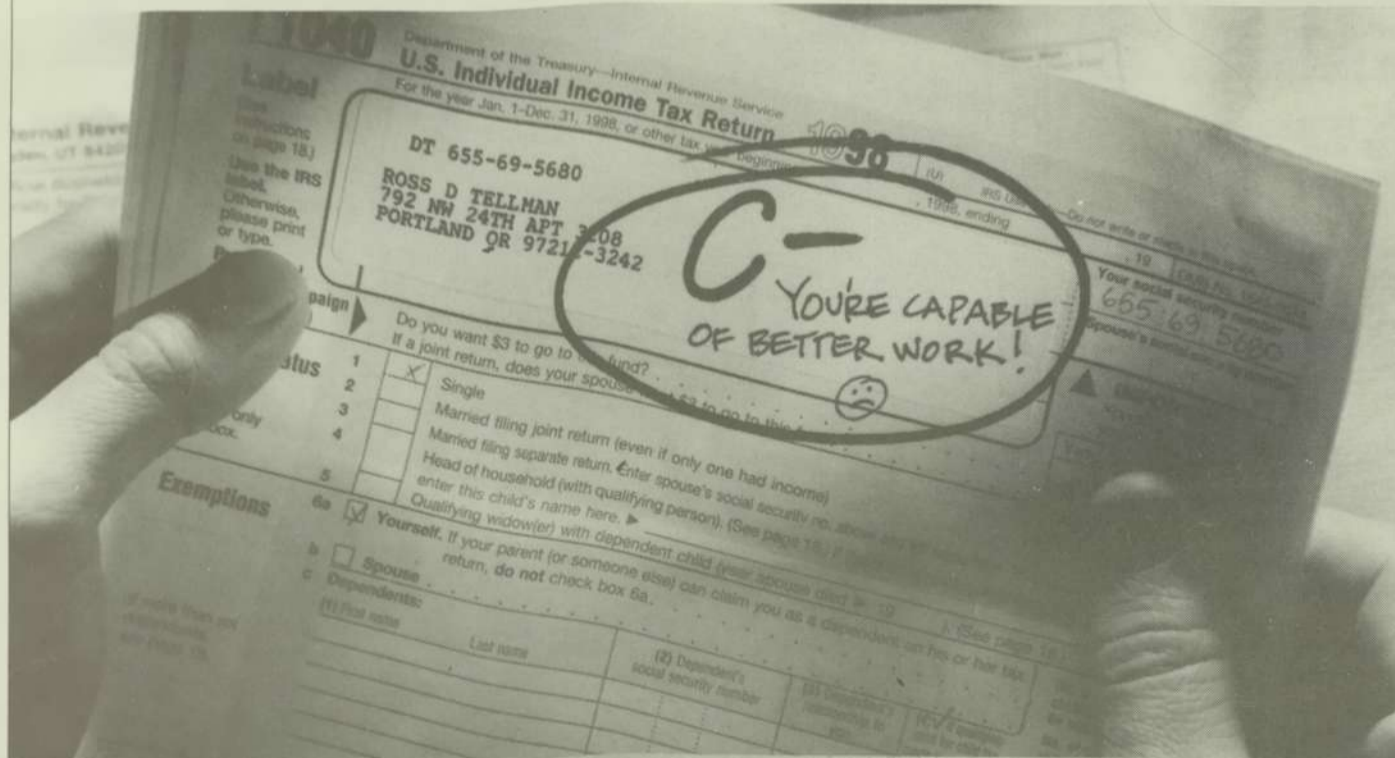
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## Second Arts Fair features disabled

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Magic shows, martial arts, bands and art exhibits are just some of the many activities planned for the second annual Arts Awareness Festival and Community Fair on Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Bill Brod Community Center and Randall Hall.

This year's event features disabled artists, musicians and performers and is sponsored by the ASG, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Oregon City News and Executive Copy Printing. Money raised will be donated to the CCC Students with Challenges Club.

Other activities include theatre performances, a barbecue, healing arts exhibits and a silent auction. A theatre group made up of members of the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill will also perform *In A Different Light*.

Local business owner Jerry Ryan, a board member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, was an instrument in helping organize the first Arts and Awareness Festival.

"My whole focus is to integrate the disabled and the able-bodied," he said. "I don't want people to be afraid of people with disabilities. It's the awareness I'm trying to build."

For more information, call 503/657-6958, ext. 2245.