

## Business Notes

### Catering is "Simply Delicious"

Whether you want a wedding reception for for 200 people, or a small, intimate sit-down dinner, Simply Delicious catering service is available in Vernonia.

Patti Ogden, with 20 years of top-flight experience in catering and event planning, is now a Vernonia resident. Ogden and her family — husband John, and three children at Washington Grade School — have moved into the home where her late parents, Bob and Mary Bright, lived for many years.

Ogden's catering experience started in the Portland-Beaverton area and expanded from there. As a matter of fact, it expanded all the way to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, when her husband was manufacturing pay phones for the international market.

In Kuala Lumpur, in addition to catering functions for all of the embassies, Ogden provided catering services for international corporations in Southeast Asia.

Back in the U.S., she contin-

### Food handlers' class next week in Vernonia

A food handlers class will be held Wednesday, April 12 at 4:00 p.m., at Sunnyside Deli, 58360 Nehalem Hwy. S. Columbia County Sanitarian Mark Edington will conduct the class.

Participants will study a booklet, watch a film and will have the opportunity to ask questions. The class will take approximately 1-1/2 hours.

Those who successfully pass the food handlers test will receive a food handlers permit. The fee for the test is \$10.

Booklets are available for check-out at the Vernonia Public Library, or can be purchased for \$2 from Columbia County Public Health. Test questions are formulated from material in the Food Handlers booklets.

For further information, call Edington at Columbia County Public Health, (503) 366-3828. Preregistration is not required. Participants should bring a pen or pencil to complete the test.

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ued catering, including one rather large event — for 500 police officers at a retirement party in Pioneer Square. Until moving to Vernonia, she was also catering manager at the Lake Grove (Lake Oswego) Safeway.

Ogden's extensive experience includes weddings, graduation parties, business meetings, birthdays, anniversaries, receptions, grand openings, in fact, just about any occasion that brings people together. She also specializes in "theme dinners" with ethnic cuisine or custom menus selected by clients.

Simply Delicious provides free consultation and event planning services. If you have questions or need more information, call Patti Ogden at Simply Delicious, 429-2020.



Patti Ogden

There is only one thing about which I am certain, and that is that there is very little about which one can be certain.

— W. Somerset Maugham

### Salmon Safe agricultural program working in area

Salmon-Safe, a Pacific Rivers Council agricultural program, is now working in the Tualitin Basin, promoting ecologically sustainable farming practices that help restore water quality and fish habitat.

Salmon-Safe is a voluntary, cooperative effort that has worked with more than 60 farms, orchards, dairies and vineyards to reduce water quality impacts in northwest salmon watersheds.

Working with farmers and scientists, Salmon-Safe has created guidelines to help farmers restore salmon habitats on farmland. These guidelines promote planting trees in riparian areas, improving irrigation, growing cover crops, and applying natural methods to control weeds and farm pests.

Operations endorsed by independent professional verifiers are promoted with the Salmon-Safe label. To date, more than 10,000 acres have been certified Salmon-Safe, including both conventional and

organic farms.

Participation in Salmon-Safe has provided farmers with important marketplace benefits including access to new buyers and market share growth. "The food companies that buy our vegetables want to know that our crops are grown in an ecologically sustainable manner," said the owner of a large Cor-

### All should have Census forms now

All households should have received 2000 census forms by now. It is important to fill out the information and return the questionnaire because the information gathered is used to determine how to distribute more than \$185 billion in federal funds annually to the nation's communities.

These are your tax dollars, and the best way to make sure your money will return to local governments is to fill out and mail your census form. Each person does make a difference.

### New USDA home loans available

The Rural Housing Service of USDA Rural Development has more than 38 million in loan guarantees available to qualified buyers ready to purchase a home in rural Oregon.

Under the program, loans may be made by any lender approved to participate in the program, including Oregon Housing and Community Services. USDA Rural Development guarantees the lender against a percentage of possible loss, allowing the lender to make a loan up to 100 percent of a home's market value. Mortgages are 30 years at fixed market interest rates.

Costs associated with repairs, closing, establishing an escrow account, and guarantee fees may be included in the loan, provided there is ade-

quate value between the purchase price and the market value of the property.

Rural areas include open country and communities with populations of not more than 10,000, if located within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), or up to 20,000 population if outside an MSA. All areas in the counties of Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook are eligible. The areas of Banks, and North Plains in Washington County are eligible.

To be eligible, applicants must have a dependable income that cannot exceed the moderate-income limits established for the area in which they live. An example of an eligible income for a household of four living in Washington or Columbia County would be \$60,250 annually.

The maximum mortgage loan amount depends on the repayment ability of the prospective homebuyer. Principal, interest, taxes and insurance (PITI) divided by the gross monthly income must be equal to, or less than, 29 percent. Total debt cannot exceed 41 percent of monthly gross income. The ratio is determined by dividing all monthly debts by gross income.

For more information, interested homebuyers should contact either local lenders, or the USDA Rural Development Office at 2528 Sykes Road in St. Helens. By phone, call (503) 397-1432, and ask for Martha Chamberlain or Mary Jo Simpson.

vallis-area vegetable farm. "Salmon-Safe is our proof."

Salmon-Safe welcomes the participation of farmers in the program. Thanks to a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, there is no cost to participate. For more information, call 503-232-3750 or visit Salmon-Safe on the web at <www.pacivers.org.>



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### Elect

**MIKE AVENT**  
Columbia County  
Commissioner

Position 1



As a northwest native and small businessman, Mike Avent knows that government must be accessible to all citizens, and that taxpayers' money must be used in a fiscally responsible way.

Avent has demonstrated his commitment to bringing family wage jobs to Columbia County, with his work on REDCO, a key player in securing a state-of-the-art U.S. Gypsum plant at Rainier.

Avent supports Senior Citizen programs and is a member of the Rainier Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

**ELECT MIKE AVENT**

**Columbia County Commissioner, Pos. 1**