

# Activities will keep teams busy during 24-hour Prevention Relay

Music, prizes, food, karaoke, and swimming are in store for participants in the Columbia County Prevention Relay Around-the-Clock, Aug. 11 at noon to August 12 at noon at the Rainier High School track.

Melissa Thorne, Team Participation Chairman, said that right now, there are about 15 teams signed up, some adults, some youth, and some a combination of both. "Our goal is to have 30 relay teams participate," said Thorne, an Ameri-

Corps Member. "We had approximately 20 teams last year, and we want to improve on that."

This is the third annual Prevention Relay sponsored by Columbia Community Mental Health. The event is in August instead of October this year to take advantage of the good weather, and has been shortened to 18 hours from 24 hours. The Relay raises money for youth prevention activities for all of Columbia County's

communities.

Teams are comprised of 10 members and a coach. Youth teams must have two adult coaches. Each team member must collect \$40 in pledges to total the \$400 registration fee for the team. The registration fee covers the cost of two meals, security, first aid if necessary, entertainment, and a T-shirt. The team must keep one member moving around the track for the entire 18 hours.

"There's a strong need for

positive community involvement with our youth," said Thorne. "The Relay is a good time for adults and youth from all over Columbia County to come together for a common goal and to have some fun."

Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., on Friday night, and breakfast about 12 hours later. During the night, a deejay will entertain, there will be karaoke, swimming in the Briarcliff Pool and a candlelight ceremony in memory of those who have died due to alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. The gates to the event will be locked from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. for security, and Relay staff will supervise during the night. Prizes will be giv-

en for the most inspirational team, best decorated tent, most laps and most money raised, among others.

"The earlier teams form, the more time they will have to collect the donations required for the entry fee," said Thorne.

She is particularly looking for participants from local businesses, churches and social service agencies. A letter went out to area businesses and churches recently asking for support for the relay by fielding a team.

Anyone wishing more information about the Relay can contact Thorne at Public Health, 1-800-244-4870 or 397-4651.

## Silent Witness exhibition now at Vernonia City Hall

The first Silent Witness Exhibit was created in 1990, in Minnesota, by a group of women artists and writers. By the summer of 1997, all 50 states had created exhibits. On October 18, 1997, 1500 witnesses from all 50 states and several countries joined in the "March to End the Silence" in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness and end domestic violence. The Silent Witness National Initiative continues to work to raise awareness and end domestic violence.

Seven to ten women are murdered each day by their intimate partners. These Silent Witnesses graphically illustrate this reality. The Silent Witness Exhibit will be traveling

throughout the state bringing this moving and powerful reminder of the most common but least reported crime in our nation.

The exhibit is now at Vernonia City Hall, and is open to the public during normal business hours through July 12. The exhibit was brought to Vernonia by the Columbia County Domestic Violence Council and by the Columbia County Women's Resource Center.

They present a formidable presence, these figures. Blood red, life size wooden cutouts of women, silent witnesses representing women killed by domestic violence in Oregon. Each figure bears a shield with

the victim's name and story of how she was killed.

Womenspace, in conjunction with the Women of Color Caucus of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV), made Oregon the seventeenth state to create a Silent Witness Exhibit. These figures honor the spirit of Oregon women who paid the final price in a crime that kills thousands yearly, domestic violence.

Countless volunteers, many themselves survivors of domestic violence, picked up drills, saws and paintbrushes to build the figurines. As the 18 figures were sanded and painted, many of the volunteers developed almost personal relationships with women they had never met but whose names and wooden silhouettes would keep their memories alive.

## Canvassers seek unlicensed dogs

Dog owners are being forewarned that Columbia County will be looking for unlicensed dogs in the Vernonia area in the near future.

Dog license fees range from \$10 to \$26, depending on

whether the animal is spayed or neutered and whether or not the owner is a senior citizen. The late fee is \$50 additional.


For more information, call the Columbia Clerk's office at 503-397-3796.

## Vernonia T.O.P.S. is disbanded

The Vernonia chapter of the T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weight-loss organization has been disbanded as of June 30, 2000. Chapter assets and member information will be

sent to the area coordinator for handling.

Current and past members of the Vernonia chapter may call Area Coordinator Linda Maravilla at (503) 981-1791.




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## BRIDGE STREET WRESTLING CLUB

Training for Folkstyle Wrestling begins July 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the VHS gym. It continues on Wednesdays & Thursdays in July, then Mondays & Tuesdays in August.

- Students in grades 6-12 are eligible.
- Members will develop the fundamental physical and mental skills required in wrestling.
- Focus will be on sportsmanship, technique, rules, attitude and safety.

**For information call:**  
**Jeff Parker, 429-9821**  
**Chris Barnes, 429-0707**





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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: By signing this form, entrants and guests release and discharge the NVSB and anyone connected with the management of this event, from any and all damages, losses, injuries, judgments, or claims sustained by them and/or their vehicle(s) or personal property.

Mail early registration with fee of \$8.00 per vehicle by August 1, 2000, to:  
Cruisin 2000, P.O. Box 36, Vernonia, OR 97064

For More Info: Glenda/Al 503-429-4074 or Sykes/Anne 503-429-0444

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