

# Reception planned for opening of The Gallery at Columbia Center

The designation of "The Gallery at Columbia Center" will be celebrated with an August art display with works donated to Columbia Foundation's Black Tie and Blue Jeans event.

All artists are invited to submit works to the show.

The Gallery opening will officially take place with an evening reception on Aug. 3 from 6-7:30 p.m. The reception will feature delicious refresh-

ments and entertainment by violinist Nancy Pruden. The reception is sponsored by Fred Meyer, Inc.

All of the work submitted to the show are donations for Columbia Foundation's Black Tie and Blue Jeans auction that will be held Aug. 19. Several of the pieces capture the Black Tie and Blue Jeans theme and spirit.

The show will include all art mediums. It will open Aug. 3

with the First Thursday reception and gallery opening, and continue through Aug. 17 at Columbia Center, 375 S. 18th St., St. Helens.

"This is probably the most important reception and art show we have had at Columbia Center," said Maeona Urban, chairwoman of the Columbia Center Art Committee. "Not only is the official opening of the gallery important, but this is also the major funding source for the gallery and the art program."

Columbia Foundation, which operates the art program, has received notification that it has been awarded up to \$5,000 by the Del Baker Charitable Trust to install track lighting, exterior signs identifying the gallery and a hanging system. However, the gallery improvements will cost \$10,000, and Del Baker is challenging the community to match its donation. Columbia Foundation will use all proceeds from the sale of artwork in the Black Tie and Blue Jeans show as matching funds for this project.

Show visitors will be able to bid on artwork during the show, using the silent auction forms posted at Columbia Center. The silent auction will close during the Black Tie and Blue Jeans summer social at Deer

Island on Aug. 19.

"We are excited that the artists themselves can support the art gallery and that art admirers can support the gallery improvements and that all money raised by us will be doubled by the Baker Charitable Trust," Urban said. "We hope to have a good turnout for the opening reception and we hope all art admirers will attend."

Although art shows have been displayed in the Columbia Center since it opened in 1996, the St. Helens City

Council and the Columbia Center Board of Directors recently approved officially designating the center as an art gallery. The name, "The Gallery at Columbia Center," also has been approved. However, the Art Committee, which organizes, schedules and hangs the shows felt improvements in lighting, signage and a hanging system were needed for the art space to meet gallery standards.

More information is available by calling Barbara Peschiera at (503) 397-1139.

## Banks log cabin history needed

The City of Banks Boy Scout Park, also called Log Cabin Park, will hold an open house during the Banks Barbecue celebration on Aug. 20. The City has received a Community Development Block Grant for some much-needed repairs to the log cabin. Built in 1930 by a group of local people as a gathering place for Boy Scouts, the Log Cabin has continued to support that activity. In later years, the site ownership was transferred to the City of Banks.

The History Group has some records of the building's history, but would like to gather more. The group is seeking old

photos and documents pertaining to the building's history, particularly early documentation about the building's beginning.

Visitors to Banks for the annual Barbecue are encouraged to stop by the park. Members of the Banks History Group will be present with a historical display. For more information, contact Judy at (503) 324-7685, or Sheila at (503) 324-6191

## Longview Taste of the Theatre

The swinging Swingline Cubs and local talents Brass Knuckles will headline Taste at the Theatre, a two day festive, fun event featuring fine wines, great food and music Friday and Saturday, Aug. 18-19 at Longview's historic Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts.

The Theatre's courtyard and adjacent Commerce Avenue will come alive with music, fine wine and great food served by area restaurants. Visitors can also enjoy free hourly tours of the historic Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts. Dr. Don Fuesler will be telling children's stories in the Pepper Studio Theatre on both days. All proceeds from this event will provide support for this community theatre.

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