

You're invited to spend the night in jail — on a voluntary basis

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work hours prevent them from being in the building at mealtime. There are accommodations for 24 male and 12 female inmates on work release status.

"Value engineering" was the key to stretching the budget for the jail, according to Sheriff's Sergeant Jim Carpeter. For instance, hundreds of square feet of space that would usually be required for storage was eliminated by using mobile storage units. The units are on wheels and can be rolled against each other, requiring only one movable aisle per storage room.

A video arraignment room is included, too, which will reduce the time officers must now spend escorting inmates to and from court. Though this didn't reduce the building cost, it will help control transportation expense and officers' time. The Sheriff's Office has tried to find grant funding in order to extend the video conferencing to all police departments in the county, but hasn't yet been successful.

The new facility isn't fancy. The cost of furnishings was reduced by using the same furniture throughout all of the offices. Stainless steel is the primary material in all inmate areas — tables, benches, bunks, sinks, toilets, etc. But it has all of those special spaces that don't exist in the old jail and sheriff's office: evidence processing room and evidence lockers, weapons racks, interview rooms, accident reconstruction office, handicapped accessible visiting rooms, inmate commissary, infirmary, inmate library and much more.

Events scheduled for the opening include free public tours, a Jail House Rock Party, and a Jail House Bed & Breakfast. Tours will be held throughout the day Saturday starting at 9:00 a.m. The tours will last approximately 45 minutes, with the last tour starting at 3:00 p.m. No reservations are needed.

Friday evening, the public is invited to attend a Jail House Rock Party. The party includes dinner, live music from the Northwest Passages band, a commemorative shirt—and a mug shot. The reception will



Bedding and clothing will be laundered in the jail and put on racks that can be rolled right into the cell pods. There are enough racks and enough room to keep the freshly laundered items on the racks instead of having to handle them three times by first putting them on the racks, then onto shelves, then back on the racks for distribution.



Nerve center for the new facility is this open area that allows a direct view into the cell pods, with cameras to cover areas lacking a direct view. It is designed so that one person can monitor all areas and also control all doors except the main door from the public parking lot.

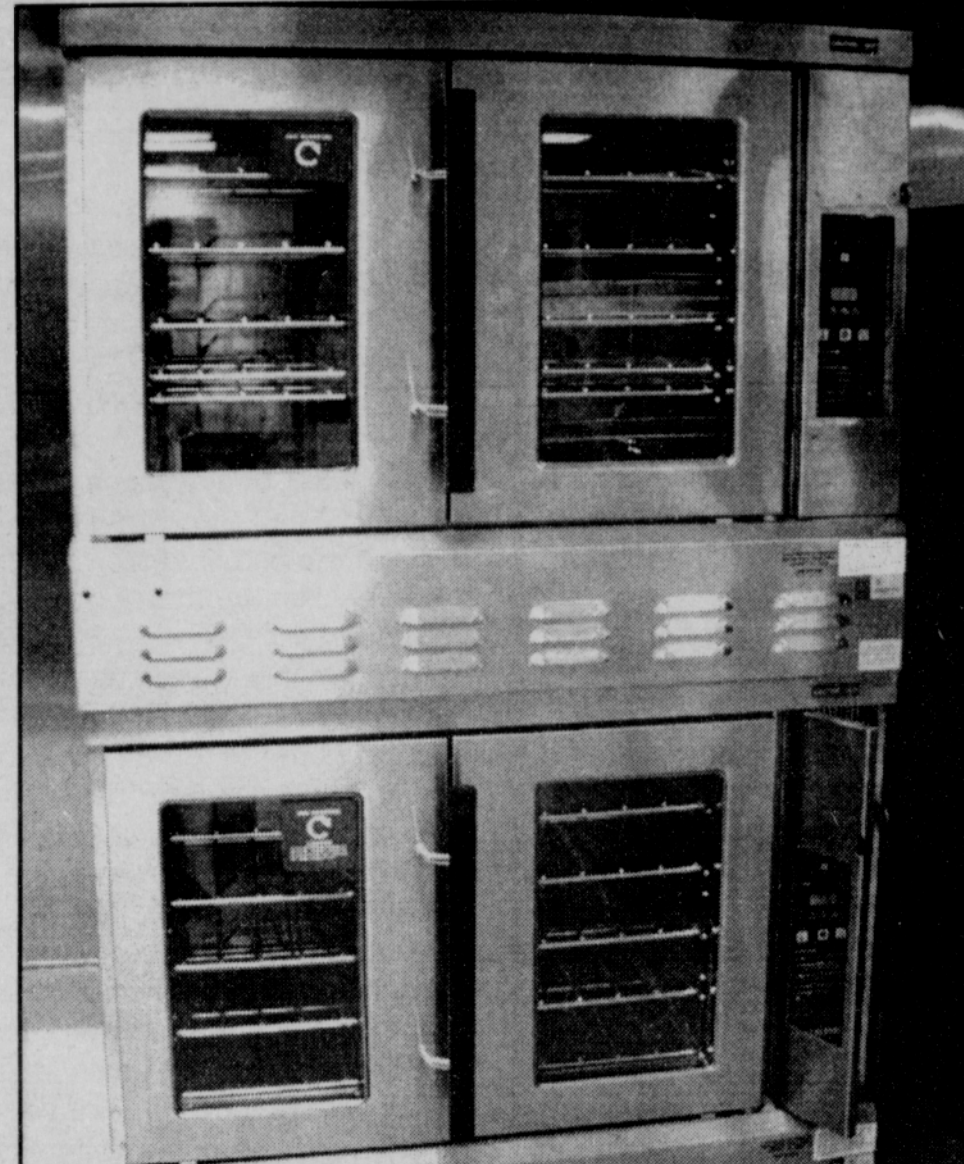
start at 5:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m. There will also be opportunity to tour the jail and learn more about the operations. The cost is \$30 per person.

For an additional \$5, attendees may take advantage of an overnight in jail, with a tasty jail breakfast in the morning. No, the cells won't be locked.

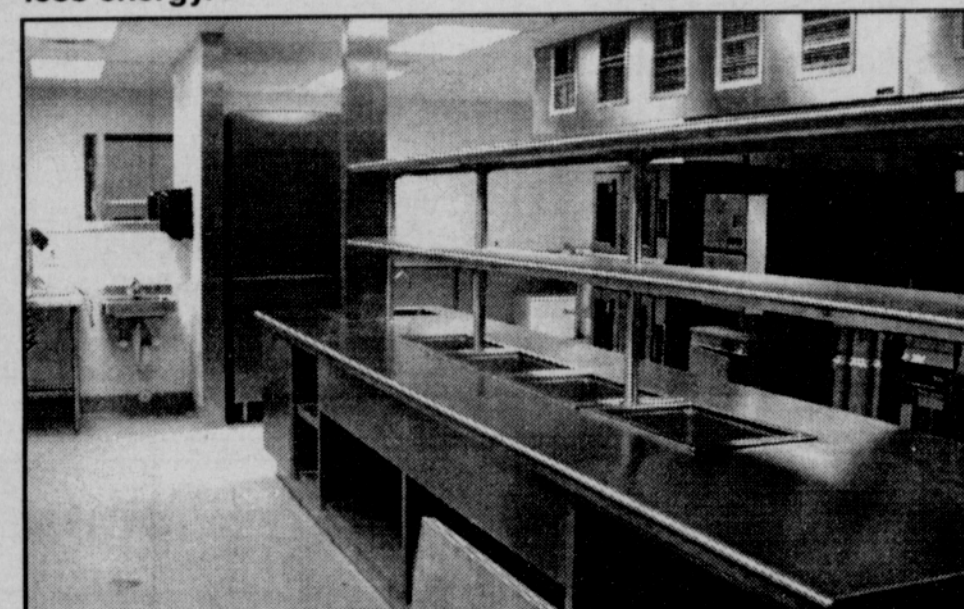
Proceeds from the activities

will benefit the Columbia County Women's Resource Center or the Columbia County Food Bank.

To make reservations for the party or the overnight, call Connie Dingeman in Scappoose at 503-543-5748, Lori Piercy in Rainier at 1-503-556-0930, or Debbie Rodgers at the jail, 1-503-366-5954.



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come and gone. I hope everybody
has a great new year!

Jim Walsh