

## Business Notes

### Garden art is focus of new business in Manning

After a two-year gestation period, a mutual interest in garden decor that is shared by the mother and daughter team of Jackie Eddings and Donna Johns, has resulted in a Garden Art business in Manning.

Because the pair both work at regular jobs at present, their warehouse will be open only on weekends; Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The warehouse displays a great variety of interesting concrete products designed to accent gardening and landscaping projects.

There are animals ranging in size from bunnies to bears; bird baths, planters, tables, benches and stepping stones; fountains from table size to six feet tall and four feet in diameter; artistic wall plaques for garden



A large selection of garden art and statuary will greet those who visit Jackie Eddings' and Donna Johns' Manning Yard Decor Warehouse.

walls are also available.

It is well worth your time to visit and browse this interesting collection of garden art.

Manning Yard Decor Warehouse is located just north of Highway 26 on Pihl Road at the junction of Pongratz Road.

### Food handlers' class scheduled

A food handler's class and test will be held at Leonetti's Pizza & Grill, 721 Madison Avenue in Vernonia, on Tuesday, March 26 at 9:00 a.m. There is a \$10 fee for the test and students must supply their own pens or pencils.

The test is based on a booklet that may be checked out at the Vernonia Public Library. It is also available for \$2.00 from Columbia County Public Health, 2370 Gable Road, St. Helens. It is advisable to read the booklet before taking the test.

For more information, call Mark Edington at 503-366-

### Annual Job Fair set in St. Helens

The sixth annual Columbia County Job & Career Fair will be held March 20 at 500 North Columbia River Highway, Suite 300 and 320 in St. Helens, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The fair is sponsored by Management & Training Corporation and the Oregon Employment Department.

Job seekers should bring resumes, and dress "interview ready." A variety of employers will be present.

A fantastic door prize will be available.

For more information, contact Diana Riggs Nish at MTC, 503-397-6495 or Jeanette Sharinghousen at OED, 503-397-4995.

### Dates set for availability of Wu staff person

A staff person for Congressman David Wu will be available to provide constituents with the opportunity to share concerns, express opinions or discuss problems with federal agencies, at the following locations and times:

Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Thursday, March 28, April 25, May 23, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Columbia Technology Center, 375 So. 18th, St. Helens, Wednesday, March 27, April 24, May 22, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Rainier City Hall, 106 B Street West, March 27, April 24, May 22, 11:00 a.m. to Noon.

### Big increase in electronically filed state income tax returns

More than 332,000 Oregon taxpayers filed their Oregon income taxes electronically last year, an increase of 29 percent over the previous year. The Oregon Department of Revenue expects the number of e-filers to go even higher this year.

"Taxpayers like to e-file because they get faster refunds than with paper returns, more accurate returns and quick electronic confirmation. And it is very safe, secure way to file," said Stacey Weeks, the department's alternative filing coordinator.

Most taxpayers who e-file Forms 40 or 40S receive their refunds in two weeks. Refunds from paper returns can take up to eight weeks, if filed close to April 15. For tax-to-pay returns, taxpayers may e-file now, but wait to pay until April 15.

E-filers receive a confirmation of receipt from both the IRS and the state. "Even taxpayers who send their returns by certified mail do not get that level of confirmation," said Weeks.

The department accepts Forms 40, 40S, 40P (part year) and 40N (nonresident) electronically, if they are filed along with the corresponding federal Forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ.

E-filing includes returns filed by tax practitioners, through tax software and modem capabilities and online filing through the Internet. The department notes that this tax season, the number of approved software products has increased, as has tax practitioner participation.

The department's website at [www.dor.state.or.us](http://www.dor.state.or.us) has information on tax preparation software programs approved for Oregon online filing. There is a fee to print or e-file most of these programs. The Quicken Tax Freedom Project website at [www.quicken.com/freedom](http://www.quicken.com/freedom) offers free online tax preparation and filing to families and individuals with adjusted gross incomes of \$25,000 or less. Many licensed tax preparers offer free e-filing with the preparation of a tax return.

### Register to Vote Today!

**Lew's Place**

Invites You to Join our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**

Bring your entry and join us at the corner of Bridge St. and State Ave. All entries are FREE.

**Corned Beef & Cabbage**  
will be served starting at Noon

Later in the evening dance to the music of  
**Highway 30**

Call us for all your banquet or catering needs: 503-429-3751  
934 Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon



Your Hosts,  
Pat & Darlene  
Knight