

Master Gardeners schedule April 27 for annual plant fair and sale

The Sixth Annual Columbia County Master Gardener (CCMG) Garden Fair and Plant Sale will be held April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the St. Helens High School Commons. The fair will feature 17 varieties of tomatoes, gardening information and the wares of local businesses and crafters.

"Each year we ask our customers to evaluate the garden fair," said Ross Carter, plant sale committee chair. "Our goal is to respond as best we can to local gardeners' requests, particularly for their favorite tomato varieties. Cherry tomatoes al-

ways sell out early, so this year we have included three great varieties in our selection: Sweet 100, Grape, and the ever-popular Sungold." Fourteen varieties of slicing, sauce and paste tomatoes will also be available.

Additionally, Carter said, the plant sale will feature perennials, annuals, and miniature roses sold by CCMG. Other nurseries participating in the event will bring their own wide variety of plants, trees and shrubs. Local businesses and vendors will offer gardening books, garden art, Oriental vegetable seeds,

bird houses, soaps, pottery, organic catnip and catnip mice, and ornamental fountains. St. Helens High School Lion's Espresso will be open to brew

Alaska adventure author will visit Vernonia library



Spike Walker, author of *Working on the Edge, Coming Back Alive and Nights of Ice*, will be at the Vernonia Public Library on Saturday, April 6 at 3:00 p.m. to meet the public.

A resident of Castle Rock, Washington, Walker will present information on research and writing, in addition to discussing his exciting, and sometimes hair-raising, true tales of adventure in Alaska.

your favorite coffee drinks.

Raffles will be held throughout the day. Tickets at one dollar each may be purchased in advance from any Master Gardener or at the door. "We have some terrific prizes this year," said Trisha Shaft, raffle coordinator. "Any gardener would love to win a pair of Felco pruners or a Mantis tiller, just two of several big prizes we'll be giving away."

Columbia County Master Gardeners is a volunteer service of the OSU Extension Service and is made possible through the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Columbia County, and Oregon State University. The Extension Service offers its programs and

materials equally to all people.

For more information about becoming a Master Gardener or questions about the Garden Fair and Plant Sale, call the Extension Office at 503-397-3462 or visit the Columbia County Master Gardener website at www.columbia-center.org/ccmg

Vegetable gardening will be subject of Grange presentation

Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension Agent, will be giving a program on vegetable gardening on Saturday, April 27 at 12:00, at the Vernonia Grange Hall, North Street and Washington Avenue in Vernonia.

USDA has funds for rural home repair loans for very low income

The Rural Housing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has \$400,000 available for repair loans to very-low income homeowners in rural Oregon. The housing repair program is designed to improve living standards by repairing leaky roofs, installing more energy-efficient materials, or correcting basic structural problems.

Loans can be made for amounts up to \$20,000, a maximum of 20 years repayment period, and at an interest rate

of one percent annually. Individuals 62 years or older may qualify for a grant in cases where an individual lacks the financial ability to repay a Section 504 loan. Under the program, applicants can receive assistance with only a promissory note on loans up to \$7,500. Mortgage securities will be required on loans exceeding \$7,500.

For more information, call 503-414-3334 or visit www.usda.rurdev.rhs

Alan Jackson will headline July 19th concert in Columbia County

After a successful first run of concerts in 2001, Morse Brothers and Columbia County have formed an official alliance with Double Tee Concerts to produce a series of concerts for 2002. Columbia Meadows (on Morse Bros. Reichold site at Deer Island) promises to be Oregon's premier outdoor concert venue and has been approved for up to 12 concerts from June through September.

The first concert of the series will feature one of the nation's premier country performers, Alan Jackson. Jackson will perform at Columbia Meadows

on Friday, July 19, at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets to Alan Jackson and all of the Columbia Meadows concerts will be available through Safeway Fastixx outlets and by phone at 503-224-8499 or 800-992-8499, or on line at www.fastixx.com

Reserved ticket prices are \$42.50 and \$52.50 and General Admission tickets are \$30.00 (plus applicable service and associated charges).

A portion of all proceeds will go to the Columbia County Fairgrounds in support of their continued operations.

Boogie on down at benefit for county Women's Resource Center

The Columbia County Women's Resource Center's third annual Café Boogie, an adventure in food and music, will be held April 20 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Time & Again Teahouse and Ballroom, 213 S. 1st Street in St. Helens.

The event includes a silent auction, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., with music and dancing from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. All eras of music will be performed by

Kilowatt Pioneers.

A no-host bar will feature beer and wine by Dockside. Express Lane Espresso Coffee Cart will also be present, and hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be available.

Tickets are \$15/single and \$25/couple. For more information, call Karin Kaczmarek at Columbia County Women's Resource Center at 503-397-7110.

COMING SOON!

Illusionist & Ventriloquist

Steve Taylor



with Rudy O'Riley!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Monday, April 15, 2002 • 4:00 PM

Vernonia Public Library, 701 Weed Avenue

No Admission Charge

Sunnyside Cafe



Our Breakfast Buffet will resume in Spring.

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PLUS Daily Specials!!

ORDERS TO GO: 503-429-4810

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