



Wind toppled this old apple tree in the yard of Ray and Clara Thielke on C Street.



Wind transformed Vernonia Lake from a placid mill pond to an aggressive body of water.

Citizens for Human Dignity slate annual dinner and entertainment

Tickets are now on sale for Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity's (CCCHD) winter dinner event, Kaleidoscope: A Winter Gala, to be held January 18, 6-9:00 p.m. at Buccini Hall, St. Frederick's Catholic Church in St. Helens.

Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased in Scappoose at Beds Plus and at the Rural Organizing Project Office, 33421 SW Maple St. Tickets can also be purchased in St. Helens at the St. Helens Book Shop. A purchase of eight tickets will reserve a table for the event.

This community dinner is the sixth of its kind. Kaleidoscope Awards will be presented to an individual and a group who are working to carry on the mission statement of CCCHD. Money raised from this year's event will be used for Columbia County human dignity programs and education. Grants are available for local organizations and application can be made to the Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity at 33421 SW Maple St., P.O. Box 1350, Scappoose, OR 97056. The dinner is also a collection point for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, and attendees are asked to bring canned or non-perishable food to the dinner.

This year's dinner, with a Southwest theme, will feature a dinner professionally planned and prepared by guest chefs and high school catering students, with help from CCCHD committee members. All professional services are being donated.

The dinner of colorful, mild southwest regional fare will begin with blue corn muffins with chile and cheese. The main course is Ancho chicken breasts with Cumberland

Sauce, fiesta rice and roasted vegetables. In addition there will be a Southwest Caesar Salad, and a dessert of fresh fruit with lime sauce. Coffee, tea and a no-host bar are available.

Following the dinner, there will be a half-hour performance by the Columbia Chorale and a short presentation by Michael Ray, local Native American storyteller.

Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor or volunteering to help with the dinner, may contact Marcy Westerling, Rural Organizing Project, at 503-543-8417, or e-mail marcy@rop.org

First grant recipients

Seven grants awarded, from 24 applications, are as follows:

- AIDS Prevention Team of Columbia County for emergency financial assistance for AIDS and HIV clients;
- Community Action Team/Caring Options Child Care Resource and Referral for workshops and training for child care providers in areas of special needs and diversity;
- Columbia County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to purchase books for elementary students tutored by RSVP volunteers;
- Michael Ray (Totem Studios) to fund Native American storytelling to Columbia County elementary students;
- Columbia County Child Abuse Assessment Center for translation services for Hispanic children and translation of materials into Spanish;
- St. Helens Public Library to acquire books for a permanent collection on social justice; and
- Community Action Team/Self-Help Housing Project to purchase construction tools for low-income families who are building their own homes.

Meeting for potential adoptive or foster parents

The Oregon Department of Human Services is in critical need of foster and adoptive homes, and will hold an informational meeting for people interested in providing foster care or becoming adoptive parents. The meeting will be Tuesday, January 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., in Conference Room A of the State Office Complex, 500 N. Hwy 30, St. Helens.

For those wishing to continue to become certified as foster parents or to adopt through the agency, a core training will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 14 through Feb 11.

In Columbia County alone, there are over 80 children in substitute care, some of whom will be returned to their parents or relatives, and some of whom will be freed for adoption.

Foster parents are reimbursed for the children's living

expenses, and health coverage is provided. There are no fees for those who adopt through the state, and assistance is available for those who adopt children with special needs.

Foster or adoptive parents can be single, married or divorced. They can work inside or outside their home, have children of their own or not.

Foster and adoptive parents need to be caring, patient, flexible and possess a sense of humor. They do not need a large income, just a large heart.

For more information, call Gail Mitchell, foster home recruiter at 503-397-3292 ext. 317 or 1-800-428-1546 ext. 317 or Sandy McMillan, Adoption Worker, ext. 308.

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