

Bits and Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



For the fisherpersons among us, my calendar says March 15 to 21 - poor, March 22 to 28 - good, March 29 to April 4 - best.

Since spring is here, do you know what you almost surely need to carry as you walk the lake? It used to be hat, coat, gloves, umbrella, dog, leash and poopie bag. If you are a stroller, you need to add bird book and binoculars. Now, if you are a true friend of the parks, you need a garbage bag to pick up cans, drink cups, candy and cigarette wrappers, sandwich bags, bottle caps, fish line, hooks and empty worm containers, etc., left on and under tables, benches and the fishing docks. What has happened to the #1 rule your mother taught you, "Don't leave a mess for someone else to clean up." I've about decided I need one more item, a long stick with a nail in it to get trash floating at the edge of the lake.

The lake has a pair of Canada Geese visiting. The hen has something wrong (there was a leader line and float trailing her, but it seems to have been snagged off of her, but she is still gimpy). Fisherpersons, please pick up your junk. I hope the geese stay with us. We won't have horse on the trail, but goose grease, but we can enjoy the birds.

Now, very seriously, has anyone other than myself received a phone call from the "Senior Consumer Counselor?" Not knowing who they were, I was curious, so I let the lady talk for five minutes. A "Black Box" to stop those troublesome calls and she could erase my name and information from their records, etc. My question to her, "How much?" Her answer, "Around \$159". She assured me lots of fixed income Seniors were getting them.

Ladies and Gents, this is a "SCAM". Radio Shack sells little black boxes.

I called the Department of Justice in Salem and for \$6.50 for the first year and \$3.00 each year after, you can get the same service and they let you know when the money is due. You can get an application by calling Salem.

Monday, 3-10: I'm just back from my stroll at the lake and guess who's in residence now? A "Big Brown Beaver." He has even been stripping bark from downed branches.

Walk slowly and enjoy the view.

Century 21 offers scholarship

Century 21 All Professionals Real Estate, which has opened an office at 786 Bridge Street, announced that they will be offering a \$500 scholarship to a graduating Vernonia High School senior this year.

"Century 21 All Professionals Real Estate is dedicated to giving back to our community," said Broker/Owner Linda Osmon, "and to help raise awareness of the needs of our most precious assets, our children."

The Vernonia office is also participating in the high school "Work Credit" program and is a supporter of the Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Party. To

find out the criteria for the scholarship, contact Associate Broker Patty Fogel at the Vernonia office, 503-429-0550 or mobile 503-704-1381, or Osmon at the main office, 503-259-2100

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White water in Rock Creek?



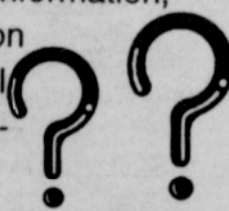
Vernonia resident Matt Chesley didn't have to travel far to have fun in his kayak. Last Sunday he took advantage of a break in the weather to spend some time getting wet (and playing) in Rock Creek.

It's time for Vernonia schools Kindergarten Roundup

Kindergarten Roundup for the Vernonia School District 2003-2004 school year will be held April 16 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary School.

Parents will need to bring immunization records and birth certificate along with their children.

For more information, call Washington Grade School at 503-429-7941.



Submissions wanted for Earth Day Art Show at The Gallery at Columbia Center

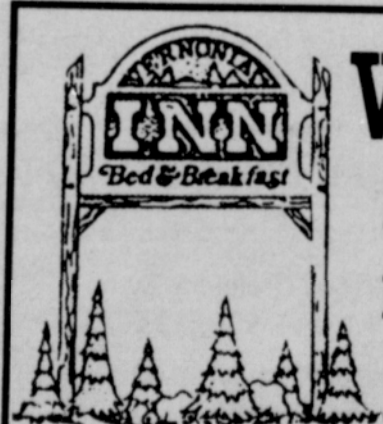
Paintings and drawings incorporating a variety of non-traditional materials, found-object sculpture, recycled handmade papers, and mixed media collage are only a few of the suggestions for submission to the Earth Day Every Day Art Show at The Gallery at Columbia Center. Art in any medium and style is welcome in this recycling and conservation theme show celebrating Earth Day.

The show runs from March 31 to April 25th.

Featured will be paintings by Longview artist, Leon Loman,

who often incorporates objects representational of society in his work, including photographs, lace, ticket stubs, and more. Mr. Loman, who began painting in 1962, has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in art education and a Masters Degree in painting.

Art will be accepted Monday, March 31st, from 4:30 - 6:30 PM at The Gallery at Columbia Center, 375 S 18th Street, St Helens. For more information or to arrange a separate art acceptance time, call Patty Kadel 503-397-9174.



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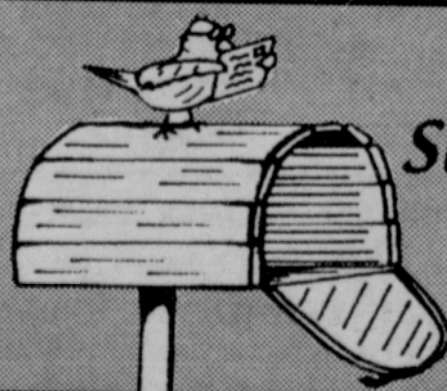
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