

Tax forms change in 2004

The Oregon Department of Revenue is starting to process returns and wants to remind taxpayers about a few important changes to this year's forms.

All dollar amounts must be rounded. Taxpayers should not include any cents on their Oregon return. Including cents could cause the department's processing system to calculate an incorrect tax amount and delay processing.

Use the text highlighted in orange. Because Measure 30 did not pass, taxpayers should use the text highlighted in orange (not green) found throughout the full-year resident or part-year resident/non-resident booklet.

The surcharge did not become law. Taxpayers must leave the surcharge line blank or enter a zero (Form 40S, line 19, or Form 40, line 44).

The "short" Form 40S looks different this year. Income amounts must be entered in each of the boxes that apply (8a - Wages, 8b - Unemployment compensation, 8c - Interest and dividends) and the sum entered on line 8d.

Taxpayers who already have filed and may have had errors do not need to do anything unless the department contacts them for more information. The department will correct many of the errors in processing. However, some errors may cause refund delays.

Master Gardener will hold plant sale on Apr. 24

The eighth annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale sponsored by the OSU Columbia County Master Gardeners will be on Saturday, April 24, at the St. Helens High School Commons, 2375 Gable Rd., St. Helens. The Fair will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

As in past years, Master Gardeners will be selling tomato plants for \$1 each. They plan to have all of the standard favorites as well as heirloom types; descriptions of each variety will be available. The tomatoes are being grown this year by Nelson's Nursery in Warren, and Shaft's Farm in Scappoose.

There will also be educational materials on growing vegetables, roses and rhododendrons; help with identifying weeds; an example of a cold frame, and information on dealing with pests. Master Gardeners will also staff a plant clinic to answer gardening questions.

Raffle tickets are on sale for \$1 each. Prizes include a mini greenhouse, compost bin, cedar windmill, garden carts, tools, gloves, plants, trellises, birdhouses, garden art, gift certificates and more.

For more information contact the OSU Extension office at 503-397-3462 or go to <www.mstrgardener.org>.

Performance by Broken Glory

Broken Glory will perform at the Vernonia Grange Hall, April 16 and 17 at 7:00 p.m., in a performance featuring mostly original music written during the last eight months.

The band is composed of Jake Brock on lead vocals and guitar, Arlene Kulunki on lead guitar, Aaron Hunt on drums and percussion, Matt Bonora on keyboard, guitar and vocals, and Myles Brock on bass.

"We've all worked hard on this and the majority of the songs in this show will, potentially, end up on our album," said Jake Brock. "There have been a lot of personal hardships this year with death, romance and growing up, and many of these songs represent that" he added.

"Of course, we will do a cover or two," he said. "How could we do a show without a song from Crosby, Stills and Nash?"

The Vernonia Grange is located at 375 North Street.

Boy Scout Troop #201

**Cinco De Mayo
Taco Feed and
Silent Auction
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
May 7, at Scout Cabin**

See next issue for
More Info.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



First off - a B i t e . D o w n the chain of command from Bill, the Vernonia Lake park caretaker. He asked me to pass this along to the public. He received it from higher up. Sooooo, dog walkers, leash your pets at all times walking the lake perimeter. Carry and use your doggie-do bags. Other folks want to enjoy their walks the same as you. All other folk, pick up your trash, please. This means on the lake for you boaters. Keep it in your boat, then put it in the cans provided by the park people.

We are very fortunate to have a lake to enjoy. We should

take pride in wanting to share it with others coming to our city. Pretend, if necessary, it is your front yard. You do keep that uncluttered, don't you?

Now - a word from a senior who is very disturbed by who knows who? We all enjoyed the wrought iron bench provided by a local group, that sat in front of the Center. I think you must have, too, but I fail to understand how you could totally destroy, for no reason, honest or imagined, something put there for the use of all of those wanting to rest. Yes, I even saw a person sleeping on it one day this past month before it was wasted. My suggestion to the responsible folk - go to the Senior Center chair-person, admit your fault and make amends. The Center is there to help young and old but not to be used and have a "So What" thrown at them.

OK. I'm off my soap box for

a moment. Spring...I finally got out in my yard. I think that is what it is called, it's still too soft and squishy to know for sure. And where the flowers belong, it is clay. I think I shall become a pot or tub gardener.

I did not see the St. Paddies parade but the Sr. Center had their Corned Beef and Cabbage Rolls a week later; good food, good music, and a full house.

For those wondering, or not, yes, I'm still reading...at present, Tony Hillerman's Finding Moon. A break from his Indian lore but still full of heartfelt intrigue set in Cambodia and Vietnam in 1975.

We've had a spring rain, seems we are lucky, no hail, no thunder, and no lightning, so, til next time...

Thank the Flicker for eating up to 50,000 ants per day (by the way, it's a woodpecker).

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