

## U. Way gives \$19,000 to Food Bank

United Way of Columbia County office has announced how \$46,377 in National Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds (EFSP) will be distributed.

The local EFSP Board — composed of volunteers representing the American Red Cross, VFW, City of Vernonia, Columbia County Emergency Services, Salvation Army, Catholic Church, homeless and retired individuals — determined the distribution for the Phase 23 allocation from requests for a total \$57,350.

The EFSP Board stated, "Even though we are pleased to receive an increase in available funds this year, the need continues to surpass the increase in funding. It is encouraging to be able to increase or at least maintain the level of funding to the requesting

agencies."

The distribution of funds will be as follows:

- Women's Resource Center, \$10,500 to help defray the cost of shelter for homeless women and children.
- Community Action Team, \$10,000, for Emergency Homeless Assistance and Emergency Utility Assistance.
- Columbia Pacific Food Bank, \$19,000, to purchase high protein and emergency food products.
- Turning Point Community Center, \$6,500, for Emergency Homelessness Assistance and Emergency Utility Assistance.
- United Way of Columbia County, \$377, for administrative costs associated with EFSP Board support.

The money will be distributed directly from the national board to each agency in 2005.

## Join comet viewing on February 6

A comet viewing party is scheduled for Sunday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m., weather permitting, on the grounds of Lincoln Grade School.

The Macholz Comet will be

visible near the Cassiopeia constellation. Bring a telescope if you have one.

For more information about the viewing party, contact Robb Wilson at 503-429-7731.

## Dean and Perle headline McCall Forum

Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean and conservative political commentator Richard Perle will headline the 23rd Annual Tom McCall Forum on Thursday, February 17, at 8:00 p.m. in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland.

Presented by Pacific University and Wells Fargo, with co-sponsors Willamette Week and 750 KXL, the pair will debate "American Foreign Policy Post 9/11."

Governor Dean led an influential campaign for the Democratic nomination for President, focusing the debate on health care and job creation. He mobilized once apathetic voters and transformed political fundraising via the Internet and then formed the new organization Democracy for America, building on his grassroots efforts. Dean served as governor of Vermont from 1991 until 2002, and previously was a member of the Vermont House of Representatives and lieutenant governor. Prior to his political career, he practiced medicine in Vermont.

Richard Perle, a political commentator, writer, and advisor, is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. He is a regular guest on television's top news programs and author of *Hard Line*. Perle served as assistant secretary of defense for International Security Policy and on the U.S. Senate staff. He is frequently called upon to advise members of Congress and to testify at congressional policy hearings and serves as a consultant to the Department of Defense and as director of *The Jerusalem Post*.

"September 11, 2001, cast American foreign policy in a new light," said Russ Dondero, political science professor at Pacific University and founder of the Tom McCall Forum. "With the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. entered a new age of foreign policy with terrorism as its centerpiece. What long-term impact will these events have on U.S. foreign policy? Traditional alliances such as NATO and our relations with nations in

the Middle East and beyond have changed. No matter who is in the White House, the current situation will shape American foreign policy for years, if not for decades."

Created in 1982 by the students and faculty of Pacific University's Politics and Law Forum, the Tom McCall Forum has become the premier public affairs event in the Northwest, drawing national political figures each year to Portland for a spirited debate between a liberal and a conservative of national interest. Previous debaters have included Molly Ivins, William Kristol, Bill Bradley, David Gergen, Ralph Nader, Newt Gingrich, Ralph Reed, Alan Dershowitz, James Carville, Mary Matalin, William Safire, John Sununu, Pierre Salinger, Robert Bork, Jesse Jackson, Mario Cuomo, and Dan Quayle.

For tickets to the 2005 Tom McCall Forum, call TicketMaster at 503-224-4400 or the Pacific University box office at 503-352-2918. Tickets are \$25 and \$20.

## Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Center to the Duck Fund last week. You gave enough to feed the ducks to the end of February if this nice weather holds and the ducks have the green grass to munch. Also, they are working the cattail beds over for bugs at present.

The freeze is over? The presidential hoopla is over. How many of you saw the red, white and blue #1 ski cap on the person in the background as they panned the crowd? Or, the president's daughter applying her lip gloss — even the commentator mentioned that. My thought — the parade protection was very overdone. It did not look like we felt like a free country. I agree other countries could misinterpret a

First off — Arf, Arf and Quack, Quack to all you folks that gave at the Senior

lot of things said in the President's speech. English speak is only understood by Americans. Elsewhere folks translate it very differently.

Walking the lake muddy road I met a man with a tripod. "What now?" I said. Said he, "Sewer line." This is progress of what kind?

Now, to you this may be silly, but I've had fish tanks since the early 60's and outside of guppies, I've never had the pleasure of births (that I know of) in my tanks. But...I saw swimming eyes the other morning. Two days later they had become lunch for the larger fish.

Don't ask why — just read on. Last Sunday at Church the lesson was based on Luke 10:25-37. I had the ultimate example of it around 6:00 p.m. on Stoney Point Road. Dark, yes it was. My car died. My companion and I sat, blinkers blinking. Car #1 came and passed by. Car #2 came (I was out of the car trying to flag it down) and passed by. Two 80+ year-old ladies with a small flashlight started up the hill for a house and finally car #3 came by — I stood in the road flashing my candle. Bless you #3, we got to a phone and help.

Enough said.

## Pageant is seeking nominations for 2005 My Fair Lady Court now

The My Fair Lady Pageant is seeking nominees for the 2005 My Fair Lady Court. The pageant is held each year during the Columbia County Fair to recognize senior women for their outstanding service in our community. Nominations are accepted from representatives in each area of Columbia County. A panel of judges from throughout the county reviews the nominations and makes the final selections for the court.

If you would like to nominate someone to be a member of the 2005 My Fair Lady Court, contact Nancy Harwood at the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), 503-397-5655, for an application form. Nominees must be 55 years or

older but do not need to be a member of RSVP or their local senior center. Nominations are due by March 1. The court will be selected by the My Fair Lady Pageant Committee and announced in March.

The My Fair Lady Pageant will be held Wednesday, July 20, as part of Senior Day activities at the Columbia County Fair. A panel of judges will select a queen by rating the women on their community service and their responses to questions asked during the pageant.

Columbia River PUD organizes the pageant each year in conjunction with RSVP and Columbia River Fire and Rescue.



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