

Soup Festival returns January 28

Saturday, January 28 is the day of the third annual International Soup Festival at Banks Elementary School. Featured this year will be Chicken Noodle, African Stew, Thai Tom Ka Soup, Hawaiian Chili, Italian Tortellini and more.

The soup will be on from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. As in past years, there will also be entertainment. Some of this years performers will be Stan McCreadie as Elvis, Alena Sheldon as Patsy Cline, and the Bare Soul Band.

Advance tickets will be available January 25 and will save \$2.00 on adult admissions and \$1.00 on childrens tickets. The price at the door will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (under 12).

The soup festival is a fundraiser for the Banks Foundation. The Banks Community Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to enhancing cultural, social and economic development in Banks and the surrounding communities.

ODFW outdoor women's workshop

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife today announced the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program's Winter Workshop will be held February 24-26 at the Suttle Lake United Methodist Church Camp, near Sisters.

This popular annual event is an opportunity for women to learn outdoor recreational skills at more than 15 different workshop classes.

"The winter BOW weekend is a great way to learn some fun winter activities, both indoor and outdoor," said Nancy Smogor, Regional BOW Coordinator.

The registration fee of \$150 per person includes: Two nights lodging at Suttle Lake Church Camp; all meals, from

Friday lunch through Sunday lunch; Instruction in the participant's choice of four classes; use of all class equipment, regardless of the activity; and optional evening activities on Friday and Saturday nights.

Classes include cross-country skiing, dog sledding, fly fishing, outdoor cooking, map and compass, snowshoeing, winter survival and GPS use.

Space is limited and openings are filling quickly. Gift certificates and scholarships also are available. For additional information on the BOW Winter Workshop, call Nancy Smogor at 541-388-6363, ext. 234 or e-mail her at <nancy.e.smogor@state.or.us>. Information about the BOW program is available at <www.dfw.state.or.us>.

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Preventive measures to avoid frozen pipes

As temperatures dip below freezing levels, it's time to start thinking about protecting your home from frozen pipes.

An average of a quarter-million families have their homes severely damaged each winter because water pipes freeze and burst.

"I know people who've left for a vacation and returned home to find their floors a virtual ice rink," said Karl Newman, president of the NW Insurance Council. "They found water frozen solid three to six inches deep. It's tragic and it's avoidable."

An eighth-inch crack in a pipe can spew up to 250 gallons of water in as little as 24

hours. That's more than enough to damage hardwood floors, carpet and furniture. Repairs and clean-up costs can be enormous.

The NW Insurance Council offers these tips to help you prevent pipes from freezing and avoid a home disaster:

- Insulate pipes in your home's garage, crawl spaces and attic. These pipes are most susceptible to freezing.

- Wrap pipes with heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables. Be sure to use products approved by an independent testing organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

- Seal air leaks that allow

cold air inside, near where pipes are located. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in.

- Disconnect garden hoses. Use indoor valves to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.

For more information on how to protect your home's water pipes from freezing, call the NW Insurance Council and ask for a free brochure titled No Frozen Pipes, at 800-664-4942.

The NW Insurance Council is a nonprofit, consumer-education organization funded by member insurance companies.

2006 seasons for Columbia River sturgeon

Regulations for 2006 Columbia River sturgeon fishing, adopted by the States of Oregon and Washington on December 15, are nearly identical to those in place during 2005.

The rulemaking commissions for both states said earlier this month that they saw no biological reason to make changes to the harvest sharing plan or harvest rules currently guiding sport anglers. Oregon and Washington set the allowable harvest of sturgeon in the lower Columbia at 40,000 fish, with 80 percent allocated to the sport fishery and 20 percent to the commercial fishery.

The states will consider additional protections of sturgeon

in spawning areas downstream of Bonneville and McNary dams, but no decision was made at the December 15 meeting.

Effective January 1, the following rules were added to the permanent rules printed in the 2006 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations:

Columbia River mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to Wauna Powerlines at river mile 40, including Youngs Bay and all adjacent Washington tributaries:

- January 1 – April 30, 2006: Sturgeon retention allowed seven days per week. Retained sturgeon must be a minimum of 42 inches long and a maximum of 60 inches long.

- May 13 – July 4, 2006: Sturgeon retention allowed seven days a week. Retained sturgeon must be a minimum of 45 inches long and a maximum of 60 inches long.

- May 1 – May 12 and July 5 – December 31, 2006: Sturgeon retention prohibited. Catch and release fishing allowed.

Wauna Powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam, including all adjacent Washington tributaries, Multnomah Channel and the lower Willamette River upstream to Willamette Falls:

- January 1 – July 31 and October 1 – December 31, 2006: Sturgeon retention allowed Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Retained sturgeon must be a minimum of 42 inches and a maximum of 60 inches.

- August 1 – September 30, 2006: Sturgeon retention prohibited. Catch and release fishing allowed.

Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon-Washington border:

- As of January 1, 2006, sturgeon retention is allowed seven days a week until catch guidelines for Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day pools are reached. Retained sturgeon must meet the size limits described in the 2006 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

More information related to Columbia River fishing seasons can be found on the ODFW Web site at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OS-CRP/CRM/main.html>.

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