

Business Notes

Stylist offers evening haircut times

Need a haircut and only have evenings free? Come to Spiralz Salon, Tuesday through Friday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., and meet the new stylist, Becky Clapshaw, who joined the salon on May 16.

Clapshaw, a licensed cosmetologist since 2000, will give you the perfect look. Whether you are looking for a haircut, style, conditioning treatment, or even facial waxing, you will find it at Spiralz in the evenings. Don't let the term 'salon' fool you, everyone is welcome – men, women, teens and children.

Walk-ins are welcome, or call 503-429-8484 to make an appointment. Spiralz is located at 712 Bridge St., Vernonia.



Becky Clapshaw

Now, you can stop on your way home in the evening for all your hair needs.

Two bridges on Timber Road slated for replacement

Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation will hold a bid opening, May 24, to award a construction contract to replace both the Timber Road Bridge and the Vernonia Road Bridge across the Nehalem River. The bid will be advertised May 8. The two bridge projects have been combined for efficiency and less impact to the traveling public.

Timber Road Bridge is a narrow, weight-limited bridge at the north edge of the town of Timber. It is a critical north/south link between Highway 26 (Sunset Highway) and Highway 6 (Wilson River Highway). The

Vernonia Bridge is just north of the Highway 26/Timber Road intersection. Both bridges are major freight routes used heavily by timber, aggregate and other freight haulers, along with emergency service vehicles between the communities of western Washington County for timber resources in the area. Timber Road serves as an emergency detour for Highway 26.

Timber Road Bridge will remain *open* during construction. Vernonia Road Bridge will be *closed* for approximately two months. The dates of the closure have yet to be determined. Highway 47 will be the detour

route.

The Oregon Transportation Improvement Act (OTIA) Bridge Program is funding this joint project. The total cost of the project is \$2.1 million. Construction will begin in June with anticipated completion in December 2006.

For updates and road closure information, check the Washington County Roads Web site <www.wc-roads.com>. For more information about this project, contact project managers Bill Ihly, 503-846-7831, e-mail bill_ihly@co.washington.or.us or Al Girard, 503-846-7851, e-mail al_girard@co.washington.or.us.

Cultural Trust grant applications open

The Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) has announced that grant applications are available for projects that address priorities identified in the recently adopted Columbia County Cultural Plan.

The CCCC and its Grants Committee include volunteers from Clatskanie, Rainier, Scappoose, St. Helens and Vernonia. CCCC's mission is to encourage projects and activities in the arts, local heritage and the humanities. Priorities in the Cultural Plan are the protection of existing cultural assets, helping young people experience a variety of cultural venues, and

increasing access to and participation in cultural events.

The Oregon Cultural Trust has allocated \$7,777 in grant funds to Columbia County for 2006. Established in 2001, the Oregon Cultural Trust is a public/private partnership that makes annual grants to county and tribal planning groups for cultural activities.

Grant awards will range from \$200 to \$1500. Applicants must provide matching resources (in-kind or cash) and must be 501(c)3 non-profit organiza-

tions or working with one. The Columbia County Cultural Plan and grant applications are available from the Columbia County website, www.co.columbia.or.us; use the Links tab to reach the CCCC section. Applications must be postmarked by June 16, 2006, for projects that will be completed between August 2006 and July 2007.

Direct any questions regarding the plan or the grant process to Janet Wright at 503-397-1035 or email to wrightj@co.columbia.or.us.

Wildfire danger increases quickly

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Central Oregon's large forest fuels are at 12 percent moisture level. On average by this date, they would be in the upper teens.

The Klamath Falls-Lakeview area is at 13 percent large fuel moisture, with 20 percent typical.

Northeastern Oregon registers 13 percent, when the average is around 18 percent.

Even the verdant northwestern region is drying out fast. Large fuels have dropped to 22 percent moisture content. Thirty percent is the norm for mid-May.

While record high temperatures across much of the state on Monday jarred residents into a summer frame of mind, the parching of the forest has been occurring subtly for some time.

"In April, the rain stopped and it warmed up," Trost said, "and over the past couple of weeks

we've had a warm, dry wind that really sucked the moisture out of the fuels."

Dry forest conditions don't have to lead to large fires. Two-thirds of Oregon's wildfires are caused by people. Whether at work or play, exercising caution with fire in the woods can go a long way toward preventing forest fires.

Every year, careless burning of yard debris, unattended campfires, irresponsible use of off-road vehicles, improper disposal of fireplace ashes and charcoal briquettes, and inappropriate discarding of cigarettes take their toll on Oregon's forest resources.

For tips on fire safety in the outdoors, contact the local fire department or offices of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Forestry.

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* Must be eligible to join. Businesses and other legal entities operating in Clatsop and Columbia counties are eligible to become members. Members must apply and be approved for checking accounts and loans. Some restrictions may apply. WFCU is federally insured by NCUA and is an equal housing lender.