

Luau held to help fight child abuse

The Amani Center - Columbia County Child Abuse Assessment Program is holding its fourth annual Luau to help raise funds to support evaluative and treatment services for child victims of abuse and/or domestic violence.

The Luau will be at the Columbia County Fairgrounds, on Saturday, September 9, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 per person or \$50 per couple. Tickets are available at the Houlton Bakery, St. Helens Book Store, Sommers Financial Management, Wauna Federal Credit Union, from the Amani Center (36200 Pittsburg

Rd., Suite D, St. Helens).

The event will feature Hawaiian food catered by Houlton Bakery, with entertainment by a live band and Polynesian dancers. There will also be silent and oral auctions. This is an adult only event.

Raffle tickets are being sold for a one week stay at Casa LaBuena Vida in Isla Mujeres, Mexico. Auction items will include Seahawks tickets, Chinook Winds Casino Package, Mt. Hood Meadows lift tickets, Trail Blazer tickets, and a one night stay at LaQuinta in Newport with tickets to the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

NARAL applauds FDA on "morning-after" decision

Michele Stranger Hunter, Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, applauded the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) long overdue decision to grant over-the-counter status to emergency contraception Plan B®, also known as the "morning-after" pill.

"Finally, the FDA put sound science before politics and made this safe, effective birth control option more accessible to women," said Stranger Hunter. "Oregonians overwhelmingly support increased access to the 'morning-after' pill as a way to prevent unin-

tended pregnancy and reduce the need for abortion."

NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon has been a leader in increasing access to the "morning-after" pill. In its most recent campaign, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon and coalition partners worked collaboratively with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to ensure that women receive seamless access in obtaining emergency contraception at the pharmacy. The FDA ruling will further increase access and compliment the seamless access protocols set in place through earlier negotiations.

Long term care advocates sought

Volunteer advocates and investigators are needed to serve as ombudsmen for residents of nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman will train the volunteers on the aging process, communication skills, problem-solving skills, investigation and other ombudsman skills. The certification training will begin on Thursday, September 14, in Tigard.

As Certified Ombudsmen, volunteers work to improve the quality of residents' lives by identifying and investigating

complaints and concerns on behalf of the residents, then working with the facilities to make changes. The typical concerns ombudsmen address cover a broad range, and often include resident care, residents' rights, such as privacy, respect and dignity; and quality of life concerns such as appropriate activities and meals. "The volunteers make a tremendous difference in the lives of the residents," said Kathy Walter, Program Administrator. "They are well-prepared and effective."

For information about the program, call Kathy Walter at 1-800-522-2602.

K-9 at Coalition

A demonstration and presentation of the Vernonia K-9 unit, with Officer Krueger, will be held Monday, September 11, starting just after the 7:00 p.m. Silent Parade (down Bridge St.) in the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park, presented by the Vernonia Drug Free Community Coalition.

The Coalition will hold their business meeting the same day at the Vernonia School District 47J office at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, call Larry at 503-819-5636 or George at 503-880-1627. The website is Vpd.Vernonia-or.gov.

Foster & adoptive parents needed



Matt, 10, and Tristen, 3, are full of smiles, energy and exuberance. They thoroughly enjoy the time they spend with one another. Although currently in separate placements, they are looking forward to a family who will adopt them both, and give them the chance to grow up as brothers.

Matt is sensitive and cares about others. Matt's challenges are his high energy level and attention difficulties. Extra scholastic support and medication have made a big difference, as has his therapeutic foster home. He tries his best and has the ability to learn and progress.

Tristen is equally as sweet and warm. With strong verbal skills, he appears to be very bright. Energetic, Tristen is playful with lots of personality

to share. He is currently right on track developmentally, and loves to play outside or tag after his older brother.

Matt and Tristen have experienced some loss and neglect. Counseling will be of great benefit for them. Adoptive parents will need the ability to juggle the very different needs of both boys. Together they will accomplish the right family perfectly!

These children are one of approximately 300 Oregon children available for adoption through the state, generally because of abuse and neglect. For more information on the availability of these children, or on how to become a foster or adoptive parent, contact the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 503-542-2392 or DHS at 1-800-331-0503.

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