

Meet author Diane Goeres-Gardner

The Columbia County Historical Society and the St. Helens Book Shop present an evening with Oregon author Diane Goeres-Gardner, December 14 at 7:00 p.m., at the Wild Currant Café. The free event is open to the public and follows the Historical Society's private annual party.

Goer-Gardner is the author of *Necktie Parties – The History of Legal Executions in Oregon, 1851-1905*. The book presents an impressively researched and meticulously documented examination of the history of executions in Oregon. Her narratives of the fifty executed men, their crimes, their defenses, and the details of late 19th century life that peek out at the reader through court filings, newspa-

per articles, probate records, and miscellaneous sources make for fascinating stories.

The presentation will focus on an incident in Columbia County in 1902 when August Schieve was hung in St. Helens. It was a startling case with an unbelievable ending.

Diane Goer-Gardner is a fifth generation Oregonian whose ancestors came to the region in 1852, settling in Tillamook County. She resides on the Umpqua River and is currently working on a sequel to *Necktie Parties* called *Murders*.

The Wild Currant Café is located in Old Town St. Helens, at 201 S. 1st Street. For further information about the event, please call the St. Helens Book Shop at 503-397-4917.

Master Gardener classes start soon

Home gardeners on Columbia County with a thirst for more gardening knowledge, and a willingness to pass that knowledge on to others, can still join the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener program.

The Master Gardener program is designed to teach volunteers how to make better use of their gardening resources and abilities. They, in turn, teach others. Volunteers are given training in soil management, vegetable gardening techniques, landscape maintenance, pest control, and many other aspects of gardening. Then during the gardening season, these new Master Gardeners help teach others to do a better job of growing and caring for plants, fighting off pests, and making our communities a

better place to live.

Classes are held once a week for ten consecutive weeks in St. Helens. Classes will be held on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning January 8. There is a fee of \$50 for reference material.

For more information about the program and about how to enroll, visit the Columbia County Extension office, at 505 N. Columbia River Highway in St. Helens, or call 503-397-3462.

Pet microchips

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The PETCO Foundation, PETCO's non-profit organization, has raised more than \$31 million since its inception in 1999. More than 4,000 non-profit grassroots animal welfare organizations from around the nation receive Foundation support. Through the PETCO Foundation, PETCO endeavors to be a community leader in promoting the welfare of companion animals and celebrating the human-animal bond.



Power of the People

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had then and now.

As an addition to the answer above, I feel our members should be as informed as possible on events or factors that affect their Co-op. The transformer price increases stated previously started with short-

ages created by hurricanes Rita and Katrina and have been extended due to literal boatloads of them being purchased and sent to China. The demand far exceeds the supply, driving the prices up. For example, a substation transformer that would have cost \$250,000 last

year now costs \$450,000 and is projected to increase to \$900,000 next year. For this reason we have submitted a purchase order for a year's supply of transformers that will cost about \$1,255,000. Last year they would have been priced for approximately

\$700,000. Next year that same order is projected to increase again. We use these transformers for new services, and to replace ones that go bad, or are too old. They are an absolutely essential part of our electrical system, so we have no option other than to make the pur-

chases. They, along with the other events, are putting a tremendous amount of pressure on our operating costs. The rate decrease, no matter how small, was a welcome help to offset some major increases in our expenses.

Ike Says . . .

From page 2

wear glasses, I need a wide brim to keep the rain off of my lenses. I had mixed results with a Gortex boonie style hat, which did a good job of keeping my glasses dry, but seemed to leak the first day, after that it seemed to stop leaking. I used to wear an old felt crusher, but the brim wasn't wide enough to keep the rain off my glasses. Of course weather and temperature dictate what kind of clothing and how much clothing a sportsman should wear, but the number one requirement is to stay dry and warm. A hunter must also be careful not to dress too warmly, which will lead to sweating and wetness from within. It is a challenge, but it can be done. Being comfortable allows a hunter to concentrate on hunting.

Sportsmen must also be in good physical condition. Hunting elk is an active sport and most days I put in at least 12 miles of either hiking or biking, usually a combination of both.

If you are constantly out of wind or just plain tired, this will cause you to lose concentration on your goal of finding a bull elk. Many hunters fail to keep a constant state of readiness for that moment when the bull may appear. You have to be ready, because bull elk just do not wait around. Being in good shape, and comfortable keeps your mind and body ready for the moment of truth.

Most people carry some sort of optics, a rifle scope, binoculars and, for we unfortunate people, glasses. Glass, rain and hot bodies do not mix and for years I suffered through the need to constantly wipe my optics with a handkerchief during rain events. One wrong move and the lens of the scope would be fogged over from the outside. If I hiked too fast, my glasses would fog up as soon as I stopped. All the wiping and fussing is a distraction and causes a lot of unwanted movement. I have, finally, found a good solution for this problem,

in a product called Kleer-Vu. I spray it on all my optics before I get out of the pickup in the morning, then I can leave it alone for the rest of the day. None of the optics fog up; rain drops will form on the lenses but, in most cases, the distortion wasn't bad enough to need

to wipe the lens. Wiping only seemed to make things worse. The key to hunting with optics in rainy weather is to learn to look past the water on the lens. Yes, there is some distortion, but if you look past it you can see adequately. I have found in the past that scope covers

and the like, are just more things that can go wrong. Keeping it simple is the best.

Being among the elk is also key. This means learning the terrain and where the elk like to be, but a person must also know that bulls do not always like to be around the cows.

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