



On May 15, Sandy Welch (third from right), Director of Vernonia Cares, and volunteers worked to sort the 1,026 pounds of food donated from the May 12 Letter Carrier's Union Food Drive.

More low income legal services offered

St. Andrews Legal Clinic (SALC) is collaborating with Columbia County Legal Aid (CCLA) to bring their services to low income clients in Columbia County who need assistance with family law needs. Currently, Columbia County residents can access these services in the metro area.

SALC has a staff of 13 full time attorneys and over 75 volunteers who help individuals and families through some of the most emotionally and financially challenging times in their lives. The clients who utilize the services of SALC come from households with an average monthly income of \$800-1400. SALC provides their services

on a sliding fee scale to make it feasible for these clients to receive representation.

Columbia County Legal Aid helps many individuals, but lacks the resources to personally represent all that apply. CCLA welcomes St. Andrew Legal Clinic's involvement in the ongoing work to meet the needs of the low income community in Columbia County.

The preliminary goal is for St. Andrews Legal Clinic to provide intake in the CCLA Office on a once a month basis. The

services will begin with an initial private consultation where clients receive legal advice and an estimate of what their case could cost if they decide to retain SALC. The usual \$25.00 intake fee will be waived for the first few months SALC meets clients in St. Helens.

The initial clinic, including a light meal, will be held on Thursday, May 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the CCLA offices at 270 S 1st St. in St. Helens. To register for this service, please call CCLA at 503-397-1608.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



at the lake, along with tree

To my readers: If the rain, flowers, grass and sounds of the bullfrog

pollen, scotch broom plus the wind have you in their grip, as they do me; you will understand why my brain forgot it was time for action, not sleep.

All I can say is – there's a duck at the dock with a trail of fishing line on its leg and I couldn't get near enough to help it. Pick up your trash or don't go near the water.

Now I'm going back to sleep.

Wright, author, 300+ help Make Vernonia Shine here on May 22

Meet Oregon author, George Byron Wright, at the Vernonia Public Library on May 22, at 7:00 p.m.

Wright is the author of *Baker City 1948* and *Tillamook 1952*. A native Oregonian, Wright was born in The Dalles. He began writing novels in the early '90s.

It is not necessary to read his books beforehand, Wright will discuss writing and the creation of his books. Copies of his books will be available for purchase.

Organizers of this year's Make Vernonia Shine efforts on April 28, have finished their counts and report that more than 300 volunteers helped clean up Vernonia.

Projects this year included Vernonia Middle School students taking part of the day on April 26 to weed and clean up the school grounds, and Vernonia Girl Scouts planting trees near Vernonia Lake.

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