

## Animal shelter offers services

From page 12 death.

In today's turbulent economy, there are options for pet owners who are short on cash. "If a customer comes to the shelter and believes he can't pay for a basic service, we have billing and payment plans. Our staff also reviews these situations on a case-by-case basis and may offer alternative solutions," Nachbar concluded. The shelter also main-

tains information on area resources for low-cost pet sterilization, low-cost pet vaccine clinics, and emergency pet food banks.

For more information on services for animals, visit [www.co.washington.or.us/pets](http://www.co.washington.or.us/pets) or stop by and talk to an animal care expert at the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter, 1901 SE 24th Avenue, Hillsboro.

## Banks Holiday Concert, Dec. 13

The Banks Chamber Community Holiday Concert will be held December 13, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Banks High School cafeteria.

In addition to the concert, Santa Claus will make an appearance for the children, and there will be time to visit afterwards over holiday treats.

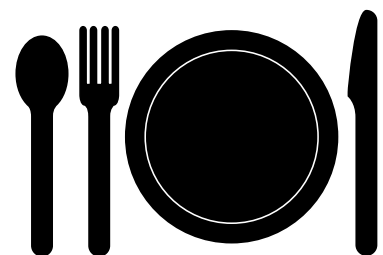
## Union Pt. Cemetery Dinner, Dec. 6

The 67th annual Union Point Cemetery Dinner will be held December 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Banks Elementary School cafeteria.

In addition to the dinner, there will be a Christmas Bazaar, plus a display of Banks history by the Banks Historical Society.

Dinner is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors (65+), \$6.00 for children, and children four

and under are free. All proceeds support the care and maintenance of the Banks Union Point Cemetery.



# Come hear the new strategy planned for Oregon's forest cluster

A newly economic development strategy for Oregon's forest cluster will be presented December 10, from 1-4:00 p.m., at the World Forestry Center in Portland. Members of the public and interested stakeholders are invited to attend.

Oregon's forest cluster includes firms and organizations that support or benefit from the primary and secondary wood products sectors, and a broad spectrum of forest ecosystem services.

Oregon's forest cluster faces vigorous global competition, and Oregon is losing wood products manufacturing facilities. The forest cluster may soon no longer be able to significantly contribute to Oregon's rural economies; provide the people, equipment, and wood products market access needed to ensure the economic viability of private forestland ownership; or supply the infrastruc-

ture needed to restore overstocked forests susceptible to uncharacteristic wildfire and forest health risks.

A group of public and private partners have developed a strategy that addresses these concerns. The goal of the strategy is to create and maintain a favorable investment climate for environmentally sensitive, socially responsible, and globally competitive forest-based businesses throughout Oregon.

These businesses will then generate high-quality, value-added products; family wage, high-skilled jobs; increased forest products exports; and increased revenues to private landowners – landowners who, in turn, provide public benefits from their forestlands for all Oregonians including clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and carbon storage.

The strategy focuses on three key areas: federal forests

restoration, forest cluster vitality, and the forestry workforce. At the December 10 briefing, public and private sector representatives will discuss each component and recommended actions. An opportunity for feedback and discussion will follow, and the briefing will end with a hosted reception. The event is free, however registration is required. More information on the December 10 briefing, including the registration form, is available at: [http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE\\_PLANNING/forestclusterstrategy.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_PLANNING/forestclusterstrategy.shtml)

On December 11, the strate-

gy will also be presented and discussed at the seventh annual Oregon Business Plan Leadership Summit – a gathering of Oregon's top business and elected leaders. The summit, which will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, will focus on the economic development, employment outlook, and sustainability of various industry clusters – including a discussion of the forest cluster during the morning plenary session. For more information on the Oregon Leadership Summit – including registration – visit: [www.oregonleadershipsummit.org/](http://www.oregonleadershipsummit.org/).

The forest cluster strategy has been created by a working group of public and private partners – the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and Oregon State University College of Forestry, along with private sector representatives.

More information on the forest cluster strategy is available online on the department's website at [www.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE\\_PLANNING/forestclusterstrategy.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_PLANNING/forestclusterstrategy.shtml).



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