

Learn how to be a Master Gardener

Home gardeners in 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 to 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.

Illusionist set to perform Dec. 18

Illusionist Kevin Puckett will perform as part of the Vernonia First Baptist Church Christmas program on December 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Puckett, from Aloha, has performed on three continents and across the U.S. His show combines special effects, humor, audience participation, skill and an inspirational message.

"What a treat! I get to celebrate Christmas with wonderful people and share a stage with my buddy Geoff Perry. He is an incredible musician," said Puckett explaining his excitement about this show.

The program will also include singing Christmas carols, dessert, and fellowship.

Free Christmas dinner planned

The annual Christmas Dinner, sponsored by Friends of Vernonia and Bill James and family, will be hosted at the Vernonia Senior Center on December 25, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Turkey and ham with all the trimming, plus a dessert and a beverage will be served to those in need as well as anyone wishing to share a Christmas meal. There is no charge and gratuities are discouraged.

Classes are held once a week for eleven consecutive weeks in St. Helens. Classes will be held on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning in January. The first class will be on Monday, January 5. There is a fee of \$50 for reference materials.

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

Help sell trees to help children

Murphy's Furniture is looking for volunteers to work the annual Christmas tree lot benefiting the Boys and Girls club. Douglas, Grand and Noble Firs will be sold, starting at \$20. 100 percent of the proceeds go to the Inukai Family Boys and Girls Club in Hillsboro. This Club serves Washington County youth, ages 6 thru 18.

The Christmas tree lot will be open 7 days a week, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the parking lot of Murphy's furniture in Cornelius on TV hwy. The tree lot

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



dark or over-crowded busy parking lots to help themselves to others property – plain and simple, you're a thief. But, what

I understand the type of folk that think it's O.K. to sneak around in the

are you when you prowling a string of cars at Vernonia Lake in bright afternoon sun and leave the doors open wide to let everyone know you've been snooping? How come you didn't take my dog's water bowl? O.K. so now everyone lock up your cars – there is a thief in town.

Thrill of thrills – to see the seven white swans at the lake, lazing in the sun. They may have just dropped in for a rest but what a thrill to my soul. Several other type of fowl have been passing through also. Oh yes, I thought Shadow was tracking mice through the rushes but she spooked out a nutria the day before Thanksgiving.

First one of those I've seen this year.

Turkey day has come and gone – I'm stuffed and lazy. I really won't need to eat till Christmas. (Cook, I mean.)

I do hope the school band made themselves proud, marching in the Parade. They need to have the chance to compete with others to really enjoy what they are learning.

Remember – especially this time of year – smile, give a helping hand. If not money, then a helping hand by taking someone out of town just for a look at the world from a different view.

Remember Vernonia Cares – Cares for you.

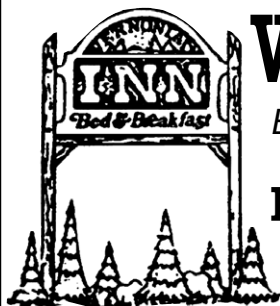
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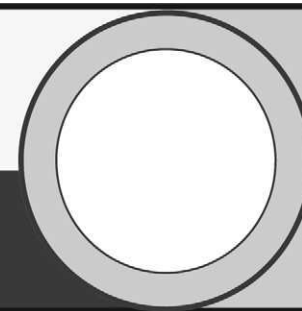
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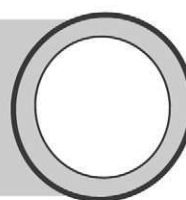


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