

Oregon Zoo offers educational HomeSchool Safari on March 10

With an informal environment designed to make learning fun, the Oregon Zoo is inviting home-school students and their families to an educational "safari" Tuesday, March 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person and includes a \$2 food coupon that can be used anywhere inside the zoo.

"Our 'safari' is a great way for home-school students and their families to learn about wildlife together," said Oregon

Zoo Director Tony Vecchio. "We are providing experiences that complement and enhance home-school activities. Kids have the opportunity to see extraordinary animals and learn about the importance of conservation while having a great time."

Home-schoolers can stop by the zoo's Kalahari Room (adjacent to the concert lawn), where a number of hands-on discovery stations give children and their families the chance to

learn more about "animals in motion." Activities showcase the ways animals walk, run, hop, swim and slither. Migration also will be demonstrated through games and activities.

Stations will feature live animals such as snakes, mammals and birds. Safari-goers also can examine bones, fur and feathers while learning about how and why animals move the way they do.

Each station offers activities and questions geared toward

children 8 to 10 years old, but parents with older or younger children can easily adapt the activities and questions for their individual students. Oregon Zoo staff will be on hand to facilitate the learning process and answer in-depth questions.

After visiting the discovery stations, safari-goers receive an activity guide for some self-directed exploration of the zoo. Families can visit animals around the zoo and see firsthand how they move.

"Education is our No. 1 priority at the Oregon Zoo," said Vecchio. "By facilitating family learning, we can help spread the word about the importance of environmental stewardship and conservation to people of all ages."

HomeSchool Safari tickets must be purchased on-line in advance, and space is limited. To order, visit <http://oregonzoo-cascadeoutfitters.stores.yahoo.net/hosa.html>.

Color photo on page 24

Rider adds Flex-Route to Rainier

Columbia County Rider now operates a Flex-Route between St. Helens and Rainier. The decision to start this new intercity service was based on updated Community-wide Transit planning, rider requests and increasing demands by riders to get from North County to medical appointments, state services and fixed route service in St. Helens.

The Flex-Route bus operates on a 90-minute schedule, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and stopping at the Rainier Transit center, Rainier Senior Center, Lindberg Store, Prescott, Goble Marina, Deer Island Store, Columbia City Mini-Mart, Columbia City Hall, Columbia Commons – St. Helens.

This FlexRoute connects at Columbia Commons with the South County FlexRoute, which serves 14 stops in the

Scappoose and St. Helens areas. Transfers between the two routes are free. FlexRoutes have a little extra time built into their schedules, allowing short trip deviations to better serve elderly and disabled passengers who may have difficulty getting to FlexRoute bus stops. The new service also offers connections to Fixed Route buses from St. Helens to Portland and PCC Rock Creek/Willow Creek, as well as the Westport to Longview/Kelso route, which offers connections to the Oregon Coast via Sunset Empire Transportation.

The cost for FlexRoute buses is \$1.50 per boarding. For more information, go to www.columbiacountyrider.com or call the Columbia County Rider dispatch center at 503-366-0159.

CCSWA annual Tree Sale on March 14

Columbia County Small Woodlands Association (CCSWA) has scheduled its Annual Tree Sale for Saturday, March 14, at the Lawrence Oil Company parking lot on Hwy. 30 just north of St. Helens. The sale begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. Eighteen species of seedlings are available, including Sugar maple, Dawn redwood, Witch hazel, Coastal redwood, Sourwood, Magnolia siebold, Giant sequoia, Incense cedar, Red Japanese maple, Noble fir, European beech, Purple smoke tree, Ponderosa pine, Holly oak, Sweet gum, Western red cedar, European larch, and "Elite" Douglas fir. Prices range from \$1.00 to \$5.50 per selection. Best selections are available early in the morning hours. Buyers of larger quantities may find limits on some species of Douglas fir, noble fir, and western red cedar.

Members may purchase bag quantities at significantly lower

prices. Applications are available for those who wish to join at the sale.

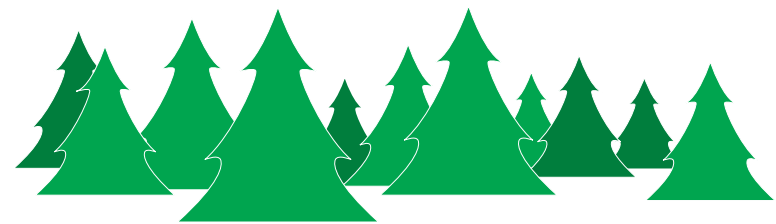
CCSWA is a non-profit organization with a membership of nearly 180 forestland families who are dedicated to the highest standards of forest sustainability and stewardship.

A strong program aimed at increasing the forestland owners' knowledge of best management practices is offered through workshops, tours, annual meetings, and panels featuring professional and experienced foresters and speakers.

The Association, with help from Teevin Bros. and Oregon Forest Resources Institute, provides a free field trip to the

World Forestry Center in Portland for all fifth graders in Columbia County. In addition, in a pilot program started last fall, the Association will fund field trips to the Tillamook Forest Center for sixth grade classes in two schools in the county. If successful, this program will be offered to all of the county's sixth graders, beginning with the new school year this fall.

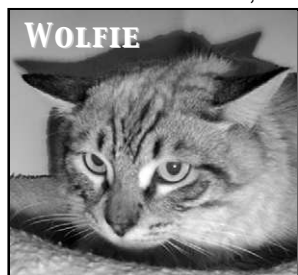
Well over a million seedlings have been planted through the Association's seedling sales and Annual Tree Sale. Of course, the continued support for these sales contributes to the greening of Columbia County.



Pet of the Month

Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter at 2084 Oregon Street. Phone 503-397-4353
Open Mon - Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 am. to 5 pm.

Wolfie (8 months old) was brought in with two other cats in the middle of February, victims of the hard times many of us face. The family that had these cats couldn't afford to feed them, so they brought them to us. They are all playful, love hide-n-seek and like to sleep cuddled up together. They get along with other cats as well as each other and are friendly to visitors. It's not a problem if you only have room for one (or two, he gets along very well with CP). Stop in and find the furry friend that's been waiting for you



The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

This Adopt a Pet is Sponsored by:

Senator Betsy Johnson

Vernonia 9th at first equestrian meet

The Oregon High School Equestrian Team's first Northwest District meet was held Valentine's weekend in McMinnville. Athletes from all five Columbia County high schools competed.

Individual High Point riders from their schools were Clatskanie's Ashlie Valentine, Rainier's Sarina Cook and Nicole Coleman – tied, Scappoose's Taylor Engstrom; St Helens' Jarod Williams; and Vernonia's Brianna Carr. At the end of the first meet of the season, Vernonia's team placed

ninth overall, with 18 schools competing.

Students involved in equestrian competitions are considered "team members", and are able to letter in the activity. Their horses are the students' partners in all events, and the students are responsible year round for training and daily care of their team partner.

Twenty-five events were held between Thursday and Sunday, February 12-15, starting daily at about 8:00 a.m. and ending close to 8:00 p.m. English Dressage events were held

all day Thursday and into Friday morning. Cow and Ranch events were held Friday afternoon. Western Riding events and Drill were on Saturday, with Individual Timed Gaming events on Sunday.

The second Northwest District meet will be March 12 through March 15, in McMinnville at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. There is no admittance charge so feel free to attend and cheer on these high school equestrian teams.