

Plan now to Make Vernonia Shine

Save the date...April 16, for Make Vernonia Shine Day, sponsored by Vernonia Pride. More information in future issues.

Please call Catherine Helmer at 503-914-9525 with questions.

Poster art contest announced

The Blues Committee and United Way of Columbia County would like to invite everyone to participate in a contest to provide the art for the Fifth Annual Blues Benefit Festival "Rhythm on the River".

This is a benefit for United Way of Columbia County. The contest is open to all Columbia County residents:

- All entries must be original art and suitable for a family oriented event.
- All art must be maximum of 10" w X 9" h in size, signed and dated by the artist
- The theme "Rhythm on the River" (5th annual) must be included in the art.
- Artists are encouraged to include the event title and location: Rhythm on the River 5th Annual Blues Benefit Clatskanie City Park Saturday, July 30, 2011
- Entries must be received by 1:00 p.m. on March 24. Mail entries to United Way of Columbia County, Attention: Blues

Festival Art, P.O. Box 538, Rainier, OR 97048; or deliver to United Way of Columbia County, 305 W 3rd St., Rm 16, Rainier. Please phone ahead, 503-556-3614, if you are dropping off.

Original art may also be sent in high quality jpg format suitable for reproduction to uwcc@hotmail.com with subject line of Blues Poster Contest.

Please include contact information when submitting work. All entries become the property of the Rhythm on the River Blues Committee and United Way. Entries will be used to raise funds. All proceeds go to United Way of Columbia County.

The event committee will judge entries. The art of the first place winner will be displayed as the 5th annual event poster. There will also be a \$50 monetary award for first place, and \$25 each for second and third place.

ShoeString production, March 17-19

The ShoeString Community Players production of *Mankind & Co.*, a fascinating tale of ancient Greek and Roman mythologies, opens Thursday, March 17, for a limited engagement in the Loo Wit Room at St. Helens High School, Building B, 2375 Gable Road. Performances start at 7:00 p.m. on March 17, 18 and 19, with a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 19.

The *Mankind & Co.* cast features Joey Baker, John Chabala, Kris Fincher, Nick Fincher, Linda Hansen, Ron Hansen, Joan Heide, Kitty Heide, Jake Hutchison, Keith Marks, Joe Nelson and Patty Rismoen.

Mankind & Co. is directed by Brian Vaerewyck, adapted by Thomas Hischak, and performed by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service.

Seating is limited, so get your tickets early. Tickets are available at SunShine Pizza, 2124 Columbia Blvd., and Bertucci's, 2017 Columbia

Blvd. in St. Helens. General admission is \$8 per person or a \$5 with a donation of two cans of food to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank.

For more information see www.SSCPMusicals.com.



Mariolino's

HAVE A GREAT LUNCH!

Daily Soup & Sandwich Lunch Specials!



721 Madison Ave., Vernonia • 503-429-5018

Senior Center News

As this column was written on Monday, it was snowing, again, and the Senior Center may be considering a formal policy about weather-related closures. This winter's snow and ice has required us to close several times, and it doesn't look like it's going away for a while. For now, when the weather makes driving difficult, it is probably wise to call and make sure the center is open before coming in.

You can learn more about your senior citizens center by attending the board meeting at 10 a.m. on the second Friday of each month. Questions and suggestions are welcome.

Don't forget about the wearin' o' the green for a special St. Patrick's Day lunch on Wednesday, March 16th. You can count on some great corned beef and cabbage! If the weather allows, the Golden Oldies will surely entertain with familiar Irish music, probably a sing-along, too.

Even without special events, a complete, delicious lunch is served Monday through Friday at noon. A \$4.00 donation is suggested for those 60 and older, and \$5.00 for those under 60. If you prefer lunch to go, for only \$5.00 you can call ahead and place your order.

Hockey to end violence?!

Hockey to end violence? It's true! The Portland Winterhawks Hockey Club is partnering with the Columbia County Women's Resource Center (CCWRC) in our work to end violence.

Come out and enjoy the game on Friday, March 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rose Garden. The Portland Winterhawks take on Seattle in what is sure to be an exciting game. Four dollars of every ticket purchased in advance will go to support the work of the CCWRC. The \$20.00 ticket price includes your donation and a Winterhawks hat.

To help us end violence and enjoy the game, call Steve Coleman at 971-230-2960 before 4:00 p.m. on March 4.

CCWRC is the only agency of its kind dedicated to serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Columbia County.

Breakfast for all ages is served each Friday from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at just \$3.50 per person. Maple bars are made fresh daily for \$1.00 each! You can also order maple bars for a gathering of any kind by calling 503-429-3912 a day or two ahead and placing your order.

Needleworkers gather each Tuesday, starting about 10:30 a.m., to enjoy companionship while working on their projects.

Enjoy free bingo with lunch on Mondays; pinocle starts after lunch on Fridays.

The Thrift Shop is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Your clean, usable donations are greatly welcomed, and will help someone else in our community.

Vernonia Senior Citizens Center:

446 Bridge Street

Senior Information Assistance Rep:

Rosie McCoy

Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thrift Shop Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Phone: 503-429-3912

Empty Bowl project helps hungry

The fifth annual Empty Bowls event is scheduled for Friday, March 11, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at McBride Elementary School, 2774 Columbia Blvd. in St Helens. Empty Bowls is sponsored by the Columbia County Commission on Children and Families and is a major fund raiser for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. Guests enjoy a communal dinner of soup and bread while at the same time supporting community members who are experiencing food insecurity.

This is truly a community effort. Everything involved in the event, the bowls, the soup, the bread and butter, entertainment and auction items, are donated by schools, individuals and artists of the community who are dedicated to making the lives of those in need of food a bit easier. A donation of \$10 is requested.

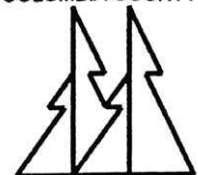
The bowls are designed and

made by local high school pottery classes. Guests donating \$10 receive a ticket allowing them to choose the bowl of their choice and to have it filled with soup. Restaurant owners of the Dockside, Klondike, Nawitka Catering, and Sunshine Pizza have generously agreed to provide the soup, while Houlton Bakery and Starbucks will provide the bread and butter, coffee and tea. Advance purchase of tickets for the event is appreciated for planning purposes.

The donation includes the bowl, soup and bread. Tickets are available at the Columbia County Commission on Children and Families in the Court House, in St. Helens at Houlton Bakery and Word for Word Books, and in Scappoose at Dianna's Formal Affair.

A silent auction of donated goods will be ongoing during the event.

COLUMBIA COUNTY



SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION
(503) 556-8800

13th ANNUAL TREE SALE!

19 SPECIES, PRICES FROM \$1.00

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Lawrence Oil Co. parking lot

**845 N. Columbia River Hwy
(US Hwy 30) St. Helens, OR**