

Congratulations

Mekhi Alexander Williams



Mekhi Alexander Williams enlisted in the U.S. Army and left for boot camp on June 11, graduating from basic training on August 24 at Fort Jackson South Carolina. Williams is completing his advanced individual training at Fort Lee in Virginia, where he is scheduled to graduate on October 26.

He will be returning home for two weeks to take part in a hometown recruitment program and will then move on to Tacoma, Washington where he will be stationed. Williams is a 2018 graduate of Vernonia High School

In Memory of...

Nora Jean (Vike) Redmond

Nora Jean (Vike) Redmond died Saturday, September 15, 2018.

Nora was born on August 23, 1922 to Oscar and Ragina Vike. She graduated from Vernonia High School in 1939. She married Harvey Leonard Redmond on March 16, 1943. After WWII they returned to Vernonia and raised two sons Harvey Leonard II and Russell Rowan Redmond.

Nora worked for Tektronics Industries in Beaverton for over 20 years. She was a lifeguard at the swimming

In Memory of...

pool in Vernonia, taught baton twirling, was a member of the VFW, and enjoyed knitting and collecting owls. She and Harvey were members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors and enjoyed RVing for many years. Harvey preceded her in death in 2000.

She was buried with him at Willamette Cemetery. She is survived by her two sons, four grandsons, and six great grandchildren. No services are planned.

Mary L. Cecil (Abuelita)

July 4, 1946 - September 4, 2018

The words simply do not exist which could describe everything she was . . .

Forever the foundation that her family was built on, solid and withstanding, she journeys onward, leaving behind the many she meant so much to.

Mary Cecil, 72, of Timber, Oregon passed on from this world on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, but the memories live on.

Never forgotten, her love in our hearts, she will always be here with us in spirit.

Thank you, Mom, for all of the great things you've taught us. We will strive to better ourselves, with you in our midst, leading the way . . .

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, October 20, 2018 at the

Vernonia Scout Cabin. Doors open at 12:00 pm, Memorial Toasts at 2:00 and 4:30 pm, Dinner at 5:00 pm. Musical guests Timberbound. Rides available. Info/questions call (503) 354-4978 (leave a message).



A Note from Columbia County Commissioner Alex Tardif



Greetings!

Do I look familiar to you? Have you seen me around? Well I sure hope so, as these last two years have been quite the

ride. So much so that my old Subaru added about 30,000 miles to its odometer! Now that I've been around a while, I thought it was time to start writing a periodic column to let you know what I'm up to in Columbia County!

First off, who are and where are we going? These are questions county staff and others have asked in the last several years. As a growing county with the budget of a rural county, we've had our struggles. So we focused on the basics. Starting with our mission statement, we created a vision for the County and defined the values under which we operate. This work has led us to begin working on what I think is essential - a strategic plan for Columbia County. Our mission includes service, engagement, connection, and innovation. These four tenets will guide us and make sure we continue to meet the needs of the public.

Another idea I supported is changing the management and organiza-

tional structure of the Road Department. By taking a deep dive into its budget, we were able to shift some cash around and direct more dollars towards maintaining more roads. A quick win was to stop buying crushed rock for road use and start making our own gravel, saving \$100k a year, while at the same time buying specialty rock from local businesses. It's a small step but I'll be working to find more. If you have any ideas, let me know!

I'm also excited to work on tourism. Did you know Columbia County is dead last in the state in generating tourism dollars? Thankfully, funding from Travel Oregon has given local leaders the opportunity to form a task force to identify, highlight, and promote our natural, cultural, and agricultural resources. The outcome is that local tourism-related business and industry will continue to help build a healthy economy and thriving community.

Here's a quick list of other subjects I've voted on or am working on now. Just as in the past, in some areas I agree with my colleagues, in others I do not. I do however, continue to work to find opportunities to make Columbia County the best place to live, work, and play.

• Broadband access – we're conduct-

ing a study to look at current availability and need for high-speed internet access across the County. Be sure to take the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/ColumbiaCountybroadbandopinion.

• Port Westward – as you may remember, I cast the dissenting vote to rezone 837 acres of agricultural land at Port Westward to industrial. My concern is the continued reliance on the fossil fuel industry and the future of agricultural resources in our County.

• Accessory Dwelling Units – counties are now required to allow one additional, small living space in conjunction with a residence in urban growth areas outside of city limits. A public hearing on this took place Wednesday, October 17. The intent is to increase opportunities for housing for people and families with low and moderate incomes. I'd like to hear

your thoughts on that.

• Changes to CC Rider transit routes – while we work to build a reliable, financially stable and strong bus system that will continue to grow, funds are limited. We recently concluded an online survey for opinions, but I'm still interested in hearing your thoughts.

As I sign off, let me tell you about an idea I've been kicking around. I would like to see a fully functional Columbia County farm and fruit co-op in the near future. If this is something you're already involved in or have an interest in, please give me a call or shoot me an e-mail.

Thanks for reading, and remember my door is always open. I can be reached on my cell at (971) 225-8069, at the office at (503) 397-4322, or by e-mail at Alex.Tardif@co.columbia.or.us.

Grants for Artistic and Cultural Projects

2019 CCCC grant application now online

The Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) is pleased to announce that grant funding for 2019 is available for projects that advance the culture, art, and heritage of Columbia County. Application forms and guidelines are on the CCCC website at <http://columbiacultural.org/forms.html>. Applications should be submitted to Kanikar Petersen at kpetersen@akaandesign.com by Saturday, November 17, 2018. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$2,000. Eligible applicants are either 501 (c) (3) non-profits, government agencies, or individuals/groups who act through a 501 (c) (3) fiscal agent. We are accepting applications now.

The CCCC is made up of volunteers from Clatskanie, Rainier, Scappoose, Vernonia, and St. Helens. Our mission is to fund projects and activities in the arts, local heritage, and the humanities. The priorities of our Cultural Plan include protecting existing cultural assets, helping people experience a variety of venues, and increas-

ing access to and participation in cultural events.

Our coalition has awarded approximately \$125,000 since 2005 with funds allocated by the Oregon Cultural Trust (OCT). Established in 2001, the OCT is a public/private partnership that makes annual grants to county and tribal groups. The OCT website, www.culturaltrust.org, contains information about its programs and the matching gift tax credit available to donors.

The CCCC has supported public art and performances, historical restoration, community events, and other projects across Columbia County. In 2018, the recipients of major grants include the Blues and Folk Music Workshops at the Columbia Center in St. Helens, restoration of the Caples House in Columbia City, and the digitization of historic newspaper archives in Vernonia.

Help with finding a non-profit fiscal agent and/or completing the application is available. We'd be happy to answer any questions. Please contact Darrel Whipple at dwhipple@opusnet.com.



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