

In Memory of...

Rachel F. Kinney



Rachel F. Kinney, 83, a longtime resident of the Vernonia community, died Sunday afternoon, October 25, 2020 at her home.

Private Interment was held at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery, with Chaplain Michael O'Phelan, of Kindred Hospice, officiating.

Rachel Faye Kinney was born February 6, 1937 in Wyatt, West Virginia, the daughter of the late Roscoe Ashcraft and Alta Erma (Somerwill) Ashcraft.

At the age of seven years old, she moved with her family to Portland, Oregon, where Rachel was raised and received her education, having been a graduate of the Jefferson High School Class of 1955.

She was united in marriage to Homer "Gerald" Kinney in April 1966 in Longview, Washington. Following their

marriage, they made their home in the Hillsboro community, until 1972, when they moved to the Vernonia community, where she has resided since.

Rachel was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald, on July 31, 2004 in Vernonia, after celebrating over 38 years of marriage together.

She had worked for Tektronix, Inc. in Beaverton, as a circuit board designer for 34 years, until she retired.

Among her special interests, she enjoyed cruising, reading, knitting, and crocheting.

She was also preceded in death by her parents Roscoe and Alta Ashcraft; and her sister Dorothy Sheley.

Survivors include her three sons and their spouses, Garry Kinney of Vernonia, Gerald and Alicia Kinney of Vernonia, and William and Jeannette Kinney of Gaston, Oregon; and her sister Yvonne Parkhurst of Salem, Oregon. Also surviving are her six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to www.fuiten-rosehoyt.com.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia is entrusted with the arrangements.

Schools Update: Comprehensive Distance Learning Continues

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

At the start of the school year the Vernonia School District (VSD) shared that it would be in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) at least through the end of the first quarter, November 12.

As this date draws near, the number of identified cases in Columbia County, neighboring counties where many of our employees live, and the State of Oregon as a whole, are not in the range that will allow school to resume.

Because of this the VSD will continue to implement CDL through the end of the second quarter. This makes the next opportunity for the district to return to on-campus, in-person instruction the start of the third quarter, on Thursday, February 4.

Although there is a lot of good instruction taking place during Comprehensive Distance Learning, the VSD believes the best learning happens with face-to-face instruction, and we want to have our students physically back in school as soon as safely possible.

When returning to school, there are four potential options for in-person instruction: Limited In-Person Instruction, Pre-K through 3rd grade Exception, Hybrid Model, and Regular Instruction.

Currently the district is offering Limited In-Person Instruction, but at this point, the earliest potential return date for any other form of instruction would be Thursday, February 4.

Our return plan opens school for in-person instruction, as designated by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in the following order as COVID-19 case metric requirements allow:

1. Limited In-Person Instruction is allowable regardless of the metrics as long as there have been no student or staff cases within the district in the past 14 days. It allows for small groups (cohorts) of up to 10 students to meet for no more than 2 hours per day. Students may not be part of more than 2 cohorts, including transportation. Staff may not be part of more than 3 cohorts on any given day and 5 cohorts in a week. See your child's Principal for more information.

2. Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Exception allows for in-person instruction for primary students when cases per 100,000 fall below 30 for three straight weeks. The exception would allow us to begin in-person instruction for all kindergarten through third grade students to have in-person instruction, following the safety guidelines in our Operational Blueprint, located on the VSD website.

3. Hybrid Model would allow all students (K-12) to return to in-person instruction on an A/B schedule with half the students attending per day to create cohorts of 15 or less on average.

4. Regular Instruction would allow all students to return to full time in-person instruction without limitations.

Again, the VSD continues to watch statistics around the COVID pandemic, and is working to have students back in school as soon as it can do so safely.

Please do your part by wearing your mask, maintaining social distancing, washing your hands, and isolating when exhibiting any symptoms.

Lights 'n Sirens: Become the Change

By Flo Lennox

I don't think I have to tell anyone that this has been a terrible year. Over the last 10 months, we have lost friends and family to COVID-19. We have struggled with the worst jobs outlook since the great recession, protests, police brutality, racism, wildfires, and a presidential election. And don't forget home schooling, no vacations, and fears that the flu and the pandemic will continue forever. A friend sent me this poem by Leslie Dwight which made me rethink what I was doing to help my family and community during these troubling times.

What if 2020 isn't cancelled?

What if 2020 is the year we've been waiting for?

A year so uncomfortable, so scary, so raw – that it finally forces us to grow.

A year that screams so loud, finally awakening us from our ignorant slumber.

A year we finally accept the need for change.

Declare change. Work for change. Become the change.

A year we finally band together, instead of pushing each other further apart.

2020 isn't cancelled, but rather the most important year of them all.

~ Leslie Dwight

First, I checked in with myself and doctor to improve my health. I retired from my full-time job and started finding ways to help people directly, getting involved with fire relief and teaching CPR and First Aid to volunteers and essential workers. I found someone to talk to about all the scary things in my life to help put them back into perspective. Realizing there is a lot that I have

no control over and that I shouldn't panic or worry about them.

By the time you read this the voting will be over but we still may not know the election results. We will have survived Halloween and now it's OK to put up those Christmas decorations. We are being advised not to get together for the holidays to slow the spread of the virus (have a zoom event instead), so all you computer people need to make sure that the older generation have zoom set up prior to Thanksgiving day. This is the time to share recipes that grandma or aunt's have been creating for years. Double recipes and drop one off to friends

or families or contact local restaurants and have dinners delivered to all members of the family at different locations and enjoy the same meal over zoom.

Join a team or group – the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association is always looking for new volunteers.

The requirements are simple, must be 20+ years of age, physically capable of lifting 100 lbs, have a good driving record, and be able to pass a background check. If you are an EMT or above you need to volunteer 24 hours per month and attend one meeting and one drill per month. What are the benefits of joining this team? Friendships, awards dinner, attending conference, Metro

West Ambulance discounts, clothing, and lots of fun times (BBQ, Easter egg hunt, Jamboree, Salmon Festival). Being an EMT can be the entry point for full time employment with an ambulance service, as an emergency room tech, or preparing you for a career in health care. If you wish more information please contact Flo Lennox at vernoniamwa@gmail.com.

Crisis line numbers

If you are facing a life-threatening emergency, please dial 911.

Help is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week for people experiencing a mental health crisis. Concerned friends, family or community members are also encouraged to call. If you need to

speak with a mental health professional. Please call:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255

If you speak a language other than English, a phone interpreter will be provided.

Multnomah County Mental Health:
(503) 988-5887

Washington County Crisis Line:
(503) 291-9111

Columbia County: (503) 397-5211
Monday-Friday starting at 8 am.

If you are a military veteran in crisis, please call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1 for support specific to veterans.



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To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to
www.fuitenrosehoyt.com