





Photos for the 'News' by Alex Eaton

COUGAR GIRLS ROMP - Illinois Valley swatted the Henley Hornets 65-45 on Friday night, Feb. 13 in Ken Mann Memorial Gym. The victory took I.V. to an 8-4 Skyline mark along with Phoenix and Lakeview. Kim Hamilton hit a season-high 27 points. Also for the Cougars, Serena Barry tallied 11 points, and 9 points came from I.V.'s Erika Riley. I.V. allowed the Hornets only nine boards in the offensive category. The Cougars were to face Hidden Valley (2-10) on Tuesday night, Feb. 17, in Murphy.

White City VA 'Dom' to remain open

"Veterans answered the call of duty, and served our nation well," said U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.). "The very least we can do is provide them with convenient access to quality health care."

That in mind, Smith joined Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Congressman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) in praise for the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission decision to maintain the veterans' healthcare facilities in White City, Ore. and Vancouver, Wash., but questioned its recommendation to close a medical center in Walla Walla, Wash.

The recommendations were made as part of a report by the commission's nationwide review of VA

health facilities.

"The commission's recommendation for Vancouver and White City are welcome news to Oregon veterans who count on these VA health-care facilities," said Wyden.

Maintaining the White City "Dom" preserves veterans' access to the largest domiciliary in the VA medical system and preserves 400 associated jobs.

The Dom provides general medicine and mental health care to more than 9,000 veterans in the Southwestern Oregon and Northern California region, focusing specifically on underserved populations such as the homeless, those who suffer from chronic mental illness, and the chemically dependent.

Closure of the Walla

Walla facility would force some veterans to travel long distances to receive medical treatment.

While the commission recommended the closure of the Walla Walla facility, it noted the importance of maintaining outpatient care and ensuring that there are viable health-care alternatives for area veterans

The Vancouver VA medical center is a state-of-the-art facility that serves more than 13,000 veterans. This region has the longest waiting list in the nation for care and the largest percentage increase in patients served than any other region this year.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi's decision on the commission's report is due within a month.

Legion Auxiliary ready for Poppy Day

During our Feb. 4 meeting we were honored to have Dept. President Krisann Owens from North Bend, District President Ellie Buell and Roseburg Veterans Hospital Representative Ilene Kiser in attendance.

The Junior girls, wearing their new vests, led the flag salute.

Kiser invited us to attend a Salute to Veterans on Feb. 12 at the Roseburg V.A. Medical Center. There was a luncheon, and valentines given to the veterans. We sent 110 appreciation Valentines for them. 15 valentines were sent to Iraq through the "Dear Soldier Program."

Fifteen afghans and 15 lap robes were delivered to Portland V.A. Medical Center, and slippers were sent to The Dalles. It was noted that we need homemade scarves for veterans.

Both the presidents mentioned the importance of keeping our membership up and how important it is to have the Junior program and the girls participation in the meetings, as the young people are the ones who will someday continue with our veterans, children and youth, and Girl's State programs, as well as scholarships and community projects.

Thirty pairs of shoes and four jackets were delivered to Lorna Byrne Middle School, and personal hygiene items and a space heater were delivered to Evergreen Elementary School. The Auxiliary has spent in excess of \$6,000 between the three schools so far this year.

We are happy to hear that sixth graders at Lorna Byrne have 12 posters ready for our Poppy Poster Contest and the seventh and eighth grades are working on theirs.

It was decided to have a May Day basket raffle this year with the money going to our Children and

If you approach each new person you meet in a spirit of adventure, you will find yourself endlessly fascinated by the new channels of thought and experience and personality that you encounter.

- Eleanor Roosevelt -

Youth programs. The basket will include cash for a "dinner for two," wine (or sparkling cider), two glasses, Taylor's sausage, cheese and crackers and a massage certificate. Tickets will be available from any Auxiliary member.

The department is having a poppy corsage contest. All entries need to be mailed to Tigard, Ore. by May 1. For more information, phone Laurel at 597-2979. Our poppies are ready, and we're prepared for May 24 to 31.



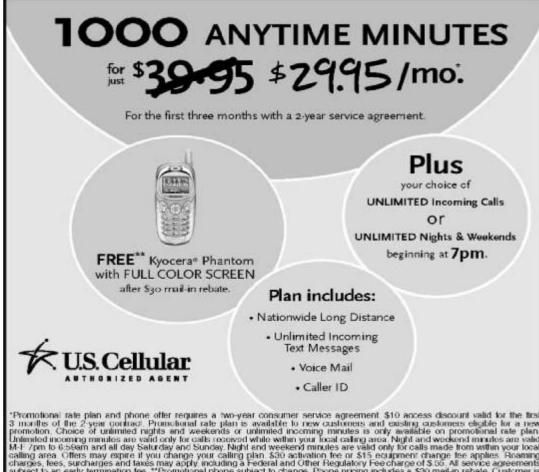


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Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Frl. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.