



Katie Leech proudly wears the purple heart she was given for 20 years service at Sandy Rexall. Staff photo.

Woman celebrates 20th year

Katie Leech, familiar face behind the soda fountain or film counter at Sandy Rexall Drug, celebrated her 20th anniversary on the job this week.

Things have really changed, she noted, between bites of the surprise cake fellow employees sprung on her — complete with decorator icing depicting soda fountain stools.

"When I started, there were only five girls and two pharmacists, Ivan (Bärker)

was owner, and Olin (Bignall) was manager," she said.

Today there are eight clerks and five pharmacists including Bignall, who is co-owner.

The building was almost new then, too — and since has expanded when the adjacent liquor store moved, freeing the space.

The pharmacy area, she recalls, was up front — not in back, as it is now.

"Sandy is so much bigger

now," she said. "I used to know everyone who walked in the store. Now I know just half of them."

Katie also worked at the Hoodland Plaza Pharmacy, a branch store, when it first opened a few years ago in Welches.

For her 20 years of service, co-owner Bignall presented her with a purple heart to wear draped around her neck.

She says she has no thought whatsoever of retiring.

Packwood backs legislation for elderly

Major health care legislation to provide alternatives to long-term institutionalization for the elderly and disabled was introduced in the U.S. Senate last week by Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore.

The Long Term Care Bill, with Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., as principle cosponsor, is designed to prevent premature and unnecessary placement in a nursing home by providing a comprehensive system for health care at home.

Specifically, the bill would establish demonstration programs on home health care and related services in 10 states and would consolidate now-fragmented home health care services offered through at least six separately administered programs into a new title of the Social Security Act.

"When I talk to seniors about their deepest concerns, they invariably tell

me of their fear of being put in a hospital or nursing home," Packwood said. "They're afraid because the hospital means medical bills and the hospital means long days and nights away from home and loved ones."

The senator noted that the 425,000 senior citizens in Oregon would benefit from the bills provisions.

According to the Social Security Administration, the greatest portion of the cost of nursing home and hospital care is borne by Medicaid. Expenditures for nursing home care under Medicaid alone increased from approximately \$800 million in 1976 to \$6.4 billion in 1977 and are expected to jump to \$11 billion by 1981.

"Keeping the elderly at home, in the care of physicians, nurses, homemakers, physical therapists and



Sen. Bob Packwood

others, will reduce Medicare and Medicaid expenditures, decrease the strain on our health care institutions and provide an atmosphere more conducive to recovery," Packwood said.

The services provided by the bill would include intermittent nursing care,

physical, speech or occupational therapy, homemaker or health care aide, adult day services and case management.

According to the bill, each potential participant will be screened to determine if in-

stitutional care or home health care is warranted and what services are needed in either case. Included in the demonstration programs will be tests of different reimbursement and cost-sharing methods.

Deadline for legals is noon, Monday

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Read-a-thon underway at schools

Volunteer readers in the Sandy Elementary School District are raising funds to support patient aid programs and multiple sclerosis research. Students at Sandy, Fir-

wood and Kelso elementary schools and Cedar Ridge School are participating in the annual MS Read-a-thon, sponsored by the Oregon chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Money for the programs is raised through pledges. Students read books of their own choosing and sign sponsors who support the students with a per-book donation.

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Senior Center News

The staff at the Sandy Senior Center announced this week that the Spring Bazaar held last week was a monumental success, owing to the many volunteers who helped organize, prepare and attend.

The staff members extended a special acknowledgment to members of the Sandy business community for their donations which proved valuable to the fundraising effort.

The center will show two films next Wednesday, April 15, following the noon meal. "TE-NA" and "Beneath Stilled Waters" will be shown upstairs in the center at 1 p.m. All seniors are welcome.

The Sandy center will host the Clackamas County Keep Well Clinic next Thursday, April 16. This service allows seniors a general health check, on a donation basis. All area seniors are encouraged to participate. For an appointment, call 668-5569.

Activities for the Week of April 9 to April 16

Thursday, April 9
9 a.m. to 12 noon Drop In
9 a.m. Exercise
10 a.m. Humanities
12 noon Golden Age Club
Potluck
7:30 p.m. Hawaiian Slides

Friday, April 10
9 a.m. to 12 noon Drop In
12 noon Loaves and Fishes
Meal

Annual Easter egg hunt set next Saturday

The annual Sandy Easter Egg Hunt will be held next Saturday, April 18, in Meinig Park at 10 a.m.

The event, sponsored by the Sandy Kiwanis Club in cooperation with the Sandy Area Merchants, Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, Sandy Optimist Club and Sandy Lions Club, attracted more than 400 youngsters last year as they searched for 100 dozen eggs.

1 p.m. Band Practice

Monday, April 13

9 a.m. to 12 noon Drop In
9:30 a.m. Exercise
10:30 a.m. Therapy Pool
12 noon Loaves and Fishes
Meal
1 p.m. Cards

Tuesday, April 14

9 a.m. to 12 noon Drop In
10 a.m. Golden Age Club

Board Meeting

12 noon Loaves and Fishes
Meal
1 p.m. Ceramics
3 p.m. Guys and Dolls

Wednesday, April 15

9 a.m. to 12 noon Drop In
12 noon Loaves and Fishes
Meal
12 noon to 3 p.m. Fuel
Assistance
1 p.m. In-house Film

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