



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Caterpillars as weathermen

Our local caterpillars are predicting a wet and unusually cold winter.

Walking home from senior lunch on Monday I stopped and studied a few of those beautiful little creatures. So far, the black is winning.

I checked out my Old Farmer's Almanac, which is a thick little booklet-size magazine that's printed once a year. It is probably most familiar to us older seniors, since it has been in print since 1792.

Here is the legend: "The woolly bear caterpillar has 13 distinct segments of either rusty brown or black. The wider the rusty brown sections (or the more brown segments there are), the milder the coming winter will be. The more black there is, the more severe the winter."

Another miracle that I had forgotten is that when spring arrives, these woolly bear caterpillars spin fuzzy cocoons and transform inside them into full-grown butterflies or moths. So much to think about!

And guess I forgot to tell you that the proceeds of that granny square afghan raffle go to the Warrenton Senior Citizens Inc. meal site building fund. A few years ago, a gentleman named Jim Donahue went on to heaven and left our meal site \$25,000, establishing an actual building fund.

A step toward his dream and the dream of many of us seniors so one day it could become a reality. Just a place for Warrenton seniors to hang out any day of the week and drink coffee and maybe shoot a game of pool or play cards. Daily lunches and bingo, too. Fun to "dream on."

Another thing I was thinking about. You know most of us take a pill or pills to keep our arteries open so we won't have a stroke and for various other ailments. But what do I take to avoid being hurt by a terrorist? Or a tornado? Or a wild fire?

I like to listen to a preacher by the name of Dr. David Jeremiah on Sunday mornings while getting ready to go to church. Last week, he spoke of the peace we can have with God and peace from God and the peace of God. (I took notes.)

Anyway, he stressed that we should not let the news of the day steal our peace. That meant a lot to me as I am, admittedly, a news addict. When I let worry take over, perhaps when a tsunami is threatened, or another crisis is around the corner, I need to call upon God and determine to rest and relax in His peace.

I like to let my mind wander. My hubby loved the crust of every slice of bread plus the heels. I cut them off. Why don't bread makers offer us crust-less bread? You know, like "paper or plastic," we could have "crust or no crust."

When I host my Pinochle Club, I like to serve little sandwiches and always cut the crust off. Think of what a time- and labor-saver crust-less bread would be. However, the birds would be sad as they enjoy the crust.

Homework for your grandkids: How many legs does a caterpillar have? (Answer next week). Hint: Why was the caterpillar late for his soccer game? Answer: He was putting his tennis shoes on.

Emergency: Clatsop EOC preparing for 'The Big One'

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just forget," Van Winkle said.

At Camp Rilea, Clatsop County's EOC houses up-to-date electronics powered by a self-contained electrical system.

Computers connect with radios that "feed" a tall tower glistening with curiously shaped antennas, some of which seem designed to, well, scare off Martians. Funded by the county after the December '07 storm, the EOC and its tower sit on a foundation comprised of volcanic rock to give it better earthquake survivability.

In a crisis, a local professional Incident Commander with a small support team would meet at the EOC. Pretrained volunteer hams would be activated to run the radios for getting the word out to emergency crews in the area, as well as to other EOCs far away.

Other licensed operators would be sent around the area for mobile communications helping to link various responders to the Incident Commander's team at the EOC. The scheme is so well proven that law enforcement, fire and rescue, the Red Cross, FEMA and even the military value local amateur radio volunteers in major disasters.

Prominent use of computers in Saturday's drill reflected a modernization of the image of a radio operator frantically trying to get in a word through the chaos of Martian sightings all over the state.

The PCs run an email-like program called Winlink, which controls external smart boxes that in turn operate the radios.

"Amateur radio digital communication modes such as Winlink allow operators

to send and receive email via radio transmission," said Christopher Paddon, a volunteer ham with the EOC's Auxiliary Communications unit. "During a disaster, when cell towers are down and Internet is unavailable due to overuse or outage, digital radio is the preferred method of communicating critical information quickly, accurately."

One of the key benefits is the automatic recording of all messages in and out.

Kicker comes in form of credit this year

A more than \$463 million tax surplus was confirmed by the Office of Economic Analysis earlier this month, triggering a tax surplus credit, or "kicker," for the 2016 tax year.

The surplus will be returned to taxpayers through a credit on their 2017 state personal income tax returns filed in 2018. There won't be

any kicker checks issued as in the past. Taxpayers are eligible to claim the kicker if they filed a 2016 tax return and had tax due before credits. Even if you don't have a filing obligation for 2017, you still must file a 2017 tax return to claim your credit.

For more info, call 800-356-4222.

Senior lunch menu

Monday, Oct. 23: Baked chicken, cornbread dressing and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, apple cake.

Thursday, Oct. 26: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, broccoli soup, key lime pie.

The Warrenton senior lunch program is at noon (doors open at 10:30 a.m.) Mondays and Thursdays at Warrenton Community Center, 170 SW Third St. Suggested donation is \$5 for ages 55 and older; \$7 for those younger. For more information, call 503-861-3502.

AGENDA CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WARRENTON MEETING

TUESDAY October 24, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.

Warrenton City Commission Chambers – 225 South Main Avenue
Warrenton, OR 97146

This is a Preliminary Agenda. A final Agenda and full meeting packet will be available on the City's website at www.ci.warrenton.or.us after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017.

REGULAR MEETING BUSINESS

- Police Officer Oath of Office and Badge Pinning Ceremony – Officers Beem & Crutcher
- Consideration of Change Order No. 1 - Gray & Osborne, Water Meter Replacement Project
- Consideration of Purchase of F-150 pickup truck – Public Works

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