



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Food favorites for the Fourth

The Fourth of July falls on Thursday next week, which is the 185th day of 2019.

There are 180 days left in the year. So we are almost half-way through the year. Most of us seniors have always called it Independence Day. Now, most just call it the Fourth of July.

Over the years, many summertime activities were planned for Independence Day, including parades (such as the one Warrenton has every year) and historical pageants, baseball games, picnics and all kinds of fun things. Hot dogs, hamburgers, beer and corn on the cob seem to head the list for the average Fourth of July picnic. Oh, yes, apple pie too!

A fun exercise for you and or your grandkids is to Google the history of Independence Day. I did that and found it truly amazing to reflect on the bravery of our ancestors when, in 1776, the Continental Congress approved a Declaration of Independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain, forming the United States of America.

We had to memorize the Declaration of Independence when I was a child. Oh, wait a minute. Maybe, that was the Gettysburg Address we had to memorize? Oh, well, somehow, both documents still give me a warm feeling when reading the words set forth those many years ago.

By the way, during a recent “googling” session, I learned that July is National Hot Dog Month. Americans are predicted to eat over seven billion of “the infamous little red tubes of meat” between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The number of hot dogs eaten on the Fourth of July is

enough to make a line from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles more than five times, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council. That’s an estimated 155 million hot dogs.

One more interesting note -- and one that’s hard to believe: it’s estimated that the average American eats 60 hot dogs every year. Not me! It’s ground round or steak for me!

While on the subject of food, I purchased a little bag of chocolate-covered peanut butter Ritz Sandwiches at a recent bake sale. Oh, my! They were absolutely amazing, to say the least.

To make them, melt 2 cups of milk chocolate chips in a double boiler and, meantime, mix ½ cup creamy peanut butter with ¼ cup sifted powdered sugar and combine it with the melted chocolate. Spread the mixture on 16 Ritz crackers and take 16 more crackers to put on top of the first 16.

The secret trick: Put the filled crackers in the freezer for about 30 minutes. Then take them out and, with a small pair of tongs, dip the chilled peanut butter sandwiches into the chocolate until completely covered. Cool on a piece of parchment paper and let dry about an hour.

You will like them.

Senior lunch menu

Monday, July 1: Pulled pork, sweet potatoes, red cabbage, spinach salad, key lime pie.

Thursday, July 4: Closed for Independence Day.

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 \$6 for ages 55 and older; \$7 for those younger. For more information, call 503-861-3502.

Letter to the editor

Airport tenants should pay more

Tenants at the Warrenton-Astoria Regional Airport (Lektro, Bar Pilots, Life Flight, U.S. Coast Guard) and people with private planes housed at the airport need to have their rent or lease increased to cover the total costs needed to maintain any infrastructure not part of their specific facility.

The Port of Astoria’s Airport Advisory Committee anticipates seeking a new taxpayer-funded bond to fix critical maintenance items now deferred. There is no discussion of how much the bond would

be for and the port has said some money would be for obtaining matching money requirements for future Federal Aviation Administration grants.

The airport needs to generate income from rents, landing and takeoff fees, and any other sources it can generate by airport operations and not seek public bonds the taxpayers must pay for in property taxes.

No one wants to lose existing airport jobs. However, the airport includes private profit-making businesses, private plane owners, and

government organizations that need to contribute more to airport operations as they are the main recipients of the airport facilities.

The public should not be responsible for funding operations that do not cover their true cost.

Separation of the Port of Astoria from airport operations does not remove the commission from its responsibility to protect the public from private interests seeking to keep their costs down by transferring costs to the public through bond issues.

Scott Widdicombe
Warrenton

Road work

WARRENTON

•A project to improve Youngs Bay Bridge on Highway 101 is under way and expected to continue through 2021. A containment structure attached to the sides of the bridge was built and most of the work is being done from a barge beneath the bridge. There will be periodic single-lane closures at night.

ASTORIA

•A project to replace six aging bridges along Astoria’s waterfront will continue through June 2020. Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh streets are being rebuilt with an expected completion within a month. Construction on Sixth, Eighth and Tenth streets begins after that.

SEASIDE

•Work crews are removing and

replacing a separator island on Highway 101 between 10th and 12th avenues in Seaside. There will be single-lane closures at night to allow the contractor to perform concrete pours, with all lanes open by 4 a.m. During the day, traffic lanes will be shifted to accommodate traffic.

•The Dooley Bridge, just north of the Highway 101 junction with Highway 26 is undergo-

ing repair, including soft spot fixes, asphalt grinding and inlay, centerline rumble strips and new striping. There will be single-lane closures between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays only.

CLATSOP COUNTY

•John Day River Road is undergoing road maintenance, although no delays are expected.

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