



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Take time to ponder nuances of Father Time, Mother Earth

"Time is the coin of your life. It's the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you." -- Carl Sandburg.

The new year is upon us. An expression that inspired or challenged my thinking processes was "Father Time."

Webster's Dictionary defines the personification of time as an old man, usually in a white robe, having a white beard, and carrying a scythe.

I can't help but ponder the gender connection. Why do we have "Mother Nature" and "Mother Earth," but "time" is masculine?

In some cartoons we see a depiction of Father Time handing over time's reins to Baby New Year. Other times the Grim Reaper is depicted.

That brings up another subject worth looking at, especially for seniors. In many pictures of Father Time, we see him holding an hourglass.

I doubt even our oldest seniors had to depend on an hourglass (well maybe for soft-boiled eggs). Some younger seniors may not even know what an hourglass is.

When thinking about it, we have progressed greatly in areas such as time.

Many of us learned to love the cuckoo clock, which most scholars believe was brought to the United States about 1850 from the Black Forest area of Southwestern Germany, the region where the cuckoo clock was popularized.

No one knows its inventor!

Digital clocks became popular in the United States in

the 1970s, according to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia. The main forerunner to digital clocks was manufactured by the Hamilton Watch Company of Switzerland.

Another interesting time-related study is about the different ways of telling time. There's the traditional clock, which includes "hands," numbers, and second "hands."

Other studies could be made of celsius or fahrenheit, centimeters or inches, linear measure vs. dry measure vs. liquid measure.

There's so much to learn and so little time!

That reminds me of a quote by Christian author/speaker Tony Campolo. "Most of us are tiptoeing through life so we can reach death safely. We should be praying, 'If I should wake before I die' ... Life can get away from you. Don't be satisfied with just pumping blood."

A 98-year-old friend told me recently that if she didn't keep moving, she soon would no longer be able to do so.

"What, then, is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know." -- Saint Augustine.

Underwater robots key to measuring ocean sound

Underwater robotics is a popular extracurricular activity in the Warrenton-Hammond School District and others in the state.

An underwater robotic glider is key for real-world research conducted through a joint effort of Oregon State University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Researchers have developed an effective method to measure sound on the ocean floor.

"Healthy marine ecosystems need to have noise levels within particular ranges," said Joe Haxel, an OSU assistant professor based at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. "As an analogy for humans, it's the difference between living in the country or living in the city or somewhere really loud."

Ocean sound was listed as an essential ocean variable due to its importance for marine life and seagoing humans and because it's used to monitor and



locate everything from earthquakes to tsunamis to nuclear explosions.

Traditionally, scientists have measured ocean sound by attaching hydrophones, or underwater microphones, to fixed moorings in the water. The problem is scientists only get data from that single location.

Ocean sound also can be measured from a research ship, but those are expensive and create a lot of noise, which disturbs marine animals and fish that are sensitive to sound.

Attaching a hydrophone to a glider solves the problems.

The glider used by Haxel and his team is about 5 feet long and weighs 120 pounds. It traveled 18 days between Grays Harbor, Wash., and Brookings, about 285 miles.

The glider operated along the continental shelf break about 30 miles off the coast, a key migratory path for marine animals.

Researchers were able to cross-reference data collected during the 18-day glider trip with historical data from hydrophones attached to moorings along the route.

It was shocking how closely the data sets aligned, Haxel said. The team concluded that the gliders are an effective and valuable asset.

Muriel Dunn

Warrenton

Memorial services for Muriel Dunn, who died Dec. 7 from complications of pancreatic cancer, are scheduled this weekend.

The service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at Warrenton Grade School, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave. (a different location from previously stated).

A reception will follow.

Senior lunch menu

Monday, Jan. 6: Crab cakes, rice pilaf, broccoli, potato corn chowder, apple pie

Thursday, Jan. 9: Elk Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, navy bean soup, bread pudding.

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.

The UPS Store



Serving all your business needs

in one convenient location

- Color Copies
- Faxing & scan to email
- Business cards
- Laminating
- Notary public
- Nameplates, name badges, engraved signs
- Blueprints, posters, banners
- Brochures, postcards, fliers, business forms
- Rubber stamps
- Mailbox rentals
- Shredding

5 N Highway 101 (near Walgreens) 503-861-7447

8-6 weekdays, 9-5 Saturdays

Looking for an investment? Warrenton UPS Store's owners are retiring and it's for sale. Location and all contracts and leases to carry over to new owners. To learn more, call Cindy at 503-791-3972 or D.B. at 503-741-5977.