



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Smile! Spring is on its way

Ground Hog Day is Sunday and all eyes will be on a rodent named Punxsutawney Phil, a groundhog living in Punxsutawney, Penn.

Celebrations are centered there as he emerges from his burrow. According to my friendly Wikipedia (online encyclopedia), if it's cloudy when he emerges on Feb. 2 then spring will arrive early. But if he's able to see his shadow, then winter weather will continue for another six weeks.

Anyway, it's exciting to realize that spring is on the way. We won't complain about the rain as we already see that some of our flowers are beginning to bud. Daylight Saving Time begins this year on March 8. And spring is scheduled to arrive March 19, with Easter then falling on April 12.

Personally, I like Easter well into April rather than in March.

The Warrenton Senior Citizens Inc. lunch site wants to congratulate its dining room coordinator, Jeanne Moha, on her recent achievement. Many know Jeanne is a volunteer heading up the SMART (State Making a Reader Today) program at our local grade school. The exciting news is that she has been chosen as the North Coast SMART Volunteer of the Year.

Her son will escort her to a \$250-a-plate fundraiser dinner in Portland to receive her award. It is fun to have her working Mondays at our meal site. Sometimes she



Jeanne Moha

reads a current book to us, such as "The Wonky Donkey" and promises to bring in its sequel, "The Dinky Donkey," about Wonky Donkey's baby girl. Jeanne keeps us grandparents aware of current trends in children's books, which helps us choose gifts for our grandchildren.

One thing about Jeanne is her sense of humor. Her telephone message machine even tells us

to smile.

The definition of the word smile tells it all. I found this on Wikipedia:

"A smile is formed primarily by flexing the muscles at the sides of the mouth. Some smiles include a contraction of the muscles at the corner of the eyes, an action known as 'smiling with the eyes.' Among humans, smiling is an expression denoting pleasure, sociability, happiness, joy or amusement."

What I like about a smile is that it's contagious. Try it yourself with the next person you run into.

Last but not least, not so long ago, a nonagenarian (George Gunn) shared a little ditty with us that was found on a gravestone more than 200 years ago. The last two lines are said to be added by hand.

*Remember me as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so you must be,*

Prepare for death and follow me.

To follow you is not my intent

'Cause I don't know where you went!

LAND-USE MEETING

More than 60 people attended a town hall meeting on land-use planning led by Mayor Henry Balensifer.

"Land use impacts how we live ... (and provides) the sense of place we have an Oregonians," he told the audience.

The three-hour meeting for local residents and planning commissioners covered a variety of local, county, state and federal laws and included talks by City Attorney Spencer Parsons and Department of Land Conservation and Development representative Lisa Phipps.

More people should engage with city leaders, Phipps said. "Your staff is here to be a support to you."

COUNTY JAIL PROGRESS

Emerick Construction, the general contractor for the county jail renovation, has issued a call for subcontractor bids for the setting of 150 steel foundation piles, with work set to begin June 4.

Bids are due by 2 p.m. Feb. 6, with information at emerick.com/bidding.

In Nov. 2018, Clatsop County voters approved a \$20 million bond for renovating the former Oregon Youth Authority facility in Warrenton into a jail capable of housing 172. Additional funding from the state and county increased the budget to more than \$28 million.

Construction is scheduled to begin no later than May with completion by Fall 2021.

FORT GEORGE BREWERY

On Tuesday, Warrenton became the fourth and final government entity to ap-

Business and development tidbits



Cindy Yingst

Grading and trenching for the 19,000-square-foot Tractor Supply Co. farm and garden store is under way on property behind Les Schwab Tire Center. The company has begun listing job openings for the new store, expected to open in the summer.

prove an agreement with Big Beams LLC, owner of Fort George brewing company.

The agreement entitles the company to a 15-year waiver of property taxes on the value of new investment in redeveloping the former Astoria Warehousing property on Marine Drive. It is in a county-designated enterprise zone.

In exchange, Big Beams must invest at least \$12.5 million in the project and create 35 new living-wage jobs. The company also will partner with Clatsop Community College on courses and internships in brewing/fermentation sciences.

Voters to decide county fair tax

Clatsop County commissioners approved placing a new five-year local option tax levy for the Clatsop County Fair on the May 21 primary ballot.

The levy renews a tax originally approved by voters in 2006, and supported again in 2011 and 2016.

The tax abatement will total an estimated \$54,000 in revenue waived by the county over the length of the agreement.

The enterprise zone is a partnership of Clatsop County, the Port of Astoria and cities of Astoria and Warrenton. The county was the last entity to approve the agreement.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

Warrenton Grade School's new public address system will go in and be tested over spring break.

The PA system is an essential part of security upgrades following school shootings elsewhere in the country.

The original levy totaled 9 cents per \$1,000 in property value; the tax was lowered to 7 cents in 2011 and to 5 cents in 2016.

The 2020 levy raises the tax to 7 cents to cover increased operating and maintenance costs and allows for increased use of fairgrounds facilities.

Senior lunch menu

Monday, Feb. 3: Thai shrimp, brown rice with peanut sauce, mixed vegetables, potato corn chowder, berry shortcake.

Thursday, Feb. 6: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, turkey and wild rice soup, chocolate cake.

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.