

Taking a 'moment' to heal



Senior Moments columnist Emma Edwards was injured in a fall last week. She is now recuperating at home.

We send her our very best wishes for a speedy recovery and, if you're a praying person, please remember Emma in your prayers. She would appreciate that.

Letter to the Editor

Booth-Schmidt best candidate

I checked the statements of Debbie Booth-Schmidt's opponent to see what was being said, and found some inaccuracies:

Debbie is *not* a tool of Portland interests. She is *not* funded by big money (no offers of \$1,000 from Timber Unity for instance).

She is familiar with the problems of working families and workers in general. She has worked in the union movement and has their trust. She is experienced and trustworthy.

Here's what she, herself, has said -- all honest, all truthful.

"I know that working families are the backbone of District 32, and they need access to strong schools, good-paying jobs, quality healthcare, and a safe, affordable place to call home.

"I have experienced being a single mom, working two jobs trying to make ends meet. I have had to make hard decisions between putting food on the table and having healthcare. I have since been a leader in my community through my union advocating for worker's rights and on the Sunset Transportation Board advocating for better transportation."

Debbie Booth-Schmidt recently retired from a many-year job assisting in the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office. She is the

co-owner of a small business with her husband.

This is not the campaign between rural and urban interests that her opponent wants to imagine.

Send Debbie, who will engage honestly, listen carefully, and work through solutions to difficult problems. Please vote for Debbie.

Charles Withers
Cannon Beach

Agreement benefits electricians

Oregon and Washington have joined forces to make things easier for general journey-level electricians to work in both states.

The reciprocal agreement between Oregon Building Codes Division and the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries will allow those who've obtained a license in one state to apply for a license in the other without having to take an examination.

It's especially important for those who live in Clat-

sop and Pacific counties, where the rural population may find itself short on qualified help.

"One of the lessons we have learned from COVID-19 is that having efficient systems and flexibility is an asset that allows us to better serve people," said Lori Graham, interim administrator for the Building Codes Division.

The agreement went into effect Monday, Aug. 17, and continues until the states terminate it.

Off the Shelf

by Kelly Knudsen



Considering race in rural communities

The month of August has been busy for Warrenton Community Library (WCL), with the final distribution of the Summer Reading Program take & make activity bags, as well as the installation, vandalism and re-installation associated with the StoryWalk® on the Warrenton Waterfront trail.

A big thank you to Jerred Engbretson and his family for locating all the StoryWalk® signs and bringing them to the library after someone took them out of the ground and threw them along the trail. Jerred and his family are a great example of

how a community works together for good.

We appreciate your family's efforts in helping get the StoryWalk® back up for our community to enjoy.

Building community is something I've been focusing on this month while planning some new adult programming for the library, centered on talking about race in rural areas.

Since George Floyd was murdered, it has become apparent that our community (and country) is divided on the existence of systemic racism, how we talk about it, and how we work together to change from systemic exclusion to a sustainable inclusive community.

To open the conversation and learn from each other, WCL has teamed up with Lancia Duke, executive director of the Love Coalition, to start a series of yearlong discussions, "Rural Race Talks: How to Talk About Race in Rural Communities," with the goal of building stronger, better communities, and empowering everyone in our communities to share their voices in a safe space.

The Love Coalition (Tillamook County) is a nonprofit with "the mission of offering acceptance without judgment and acknowledging our differences in a healthy way, where we can learn and grow from

each other, all while having the freedom to be authentic and without fear of bias."

We welcome you to join WCL for our first six-week session of Rural Race Talks. We will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 23 through Oct. 28. We have 10 in-person seats available (social distancing will be adhered to) as well as virtually on Zoom.

This is only the first discussion in a series of Rural Race Talks, as the yearlong program will continue through spring 2021, with four additional six-week sessions, expanding the conversations and dialogue with community leaders and guest panelists, including city managers, mayors, police officers and other policy makers. The project will culminate with a Community Cultural Celebration in summer 2021.

For more information and/or to sign up for the first six-week session, please call Library Director Kelly Knudsen at 503-861-8156 or email warrentoncl@gmail.com. Watch our website, warrentonlibrary.org, this newspaper, and WCL's Facebook page for more information.

Kelly Knudsen is director of Warrenton Community Library. She has a master's degree in library and information science.

Special columns in The Columbia Press

Every week: Senior Moments with Emma Edwards

Week 1: History in the Making

Week 2: Financial Focus with Adam Miller

Week 3: Off the Shelf by Kelly Knudsen

Final week: Mayor's Message by Henry Balensifer



Warrenton Community Library
160 S. Main Ave.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. MWF
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tues & Thurs