

Mammogram van will be in Vernonia

April is Cancer Awareness Month and the Vernonia Unit of the American Cancer Society has, once again, arranged to have the Tuality Health Care mammogram van in Vernonia.

It will be at the Vernonia Health Center on Wednesday, April 20. An appointment is necessary and may be made by calling the Health Center, 429-9191.

Industries selected for Regional Strategies funding

The Northwest Oregon Economic Alliance (NOEA) has targeted three industries as the basis for Oregon Lottery funding through the Regional Strategies program of the state Economic Development Department.

Forest products, tourism and the rapidly growing field of environmental services are the industries selected by NOEA, which is composed of officials, community and business leaders in Columbia,

Clatsop and Tillamook Counties.

NOEA staff is drafting a plan for the development of those industries in the region. The board will meet April 15 to review the draft. Funding available for the project, over a two-year period, is approximately \$600,000.

In a related event, Portland General Electric (PGE) officials announced that Concordia College of Portland plans to use buildings and wetlands

at the closed Trojan nuclear plant for a bachelor's program in environmental restoration and remediation.

If the curriculum is approved and accredited, the program will start in 1995. It would be the first such bachelor's program in the nation. Clatsop Community College is developing a two-year program in environmental clean-up, and Mount Hood Community College has a two-year program in hazardous waste management.

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Visitors...



An all-day tour of Columbia County brought Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Kitzhaber to Vernonia on March 31 to talk with local residents. He is shown here with Vernonia Mayor Tony Hyde, left, and County Commissioner Mike Sykes.

Kitzhaber stresses community

John Kitzhaber, candidate for governor, brought his campaign to Vernonia, expressing concern about rural economic development and the need to "re-create the feeling of community" in Oregon.

State government needs to recognize that what affects one part of Oregon, also affects other parts, though not necessarily in the same way, Kitzhaber told the small group gathered in the Fire Department meeting room.

Responding to a question on adequate funding for education, Kitzhaber said he is meeting with legislators from both parties, asking them to go through the budget with him. Pointing to the last legislative session as leaderless

partisanship, he said, "Education is more important than partisanship," and a bipartisan consensus is necessary to help solve the problem.

On the question of salmon survival/electric power generation/fishing/logging, Kitzhaber said the need for balance on the Public Power Planning Council is "critical" if Northwest governments are going to get ahead on the issue. He added that federal

funding is needed to help with the restoration and rehabilitation of salmon habitat.

"The issue is not placing fault," he said, "but finding solutions."

As a former state legislator and senate president, Kitzhaber was known for building consensus among diverse legislators in order to achieve goals. He is also a physician and the "father" of the Oregon Health Plan.

Levy asked for law officers

A three-year operating levy for expanded law enforcement services through the Columbia County Sheriff's Department will be on the ballot for the May 17 election.

The \$1.1 million levy in-

cludes a split rate proposal of 3 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on property inside city limits, and 77 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties in unincorporated areas.

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Spring Spirit will fly with help of friends

A Spring Spirit Day has been announced by Vernonia Pride, for Saturday, April 30.

The day will start with a community-wide spruce up effort that will be carried on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a hot dog lunch for all volunteers who are working on the project.

Then there will be an All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner and Pie Social in the Washington Grade School cafeteria from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 years and under; free under age two.

Following the Pie Social, there will be a silent auction, a children's auction and a standard auction to round out

the evening.

More workers are needed for all of the activities. Anyone who can spend a few hours on Spring Spirit Day, or on advance preparation, is asked to call Genny Fisher at 429-1204, Debbie Sturdefant at 429-9004, or Sandy Welch at 429-9602.

Carolyn Keasey is in charge of the dinner, Colin Tierney is working on the children's auction, Jeff Parker is seeking auction items and Bill Yeo will do the live auctioneering.

For donations to the Pie Social or one of the auctions, also call the phone numbers given above.

Look for more details in the April 23rd issue of *The INDEPENDENT*.

Bike helmet law here soon

Oregon's new law requiring all children under age 16 to wear helmets when they're on bicycles goes into effect on July 1.

Violators or their parents will be fined \$25. The fine will be waived for first time offenders if they either buy a helmet or show proof that they own one. Subsequent violations carry a \$25 fine.

If a child is under age 12, the parent or guardian will be cited. Either parent or child can be cited in the 12 to 15 age group.

The law covers children riding any bicycle, or riding as passengers on bicycles, in any public place, including streets, roads, sidewalks and parks. It does not include tricycles for young children.

Approved helmets need to meet current ANSI or Snell certification and must be so

labeled. Helmets must also be available to rent at places that rent or lease bicycles.

"We didn't pass this law to punish people. We passed it to get them to wear helmets," said State Senator Ron Cease. "Lots of people have been injured because they didn't wear helmets. We want to keep people healthy so they can get back on their bikes and ride another day." Cease co-sponsored the bill with State Senator Wes Cooley, who says protecting children from injuries with a bicycle helmet law is good public policy.

"The problem is that the brain usually can't be fixed, so the death rate doesn't tell the whole story," said Joanne Fairchild, trauma coordinator at Emanuel Hospital, "And I've seen what helmets can

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