

Community

Vernonia Senior Center

By Patricia Olson

I've lost track of when I started writing this column. I guess I'm a good representative of Seniors, because I often find myself saying, "I forgot."

In light of the above statement, I find myself leaving this with mixed emotions. We have lived in this town for 26 years and are looking forward to our new life in Grants Pass, but will miss the many friends we've made here. I am most appreciative of the opportunity *The INDEPENDENT* has given me to try my wings at journalism. It has been fun and you, the readers, have been most kind in your remarks.

I want to introduce you to Karen Miller, who will be taking over this task. I hope you will be encouraging to her as you have been to me. I know she will give it her very best.

I have not been informed of any new, upcoming events from the departments. Our cook is on vacation and JoAnne is filling in for her. We had a special time honoring the

Free ride to fair for seniors

Thanks to Columbia River PUD, seniors will have a free ride on COLCO Transportation to the Columbia County Fair on Wednesday, July 19, for Senior Day.

Round trip transportation will be provided from the senior centers in Vernonia, Clatskanie, St. Helens and Rainier. Interested seniors should sign up at their senior center by July 10. The number of buses will depend on the number of participating seniors. Details on arrival and departure times will be available at each senior center by July 17.

The My Fair Lady Pageant is held during the county fair each year to recognize senior women for their outstanding service to our communities. The PUD organizes the pageant each year in conjunction with the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program and the St. Helens Fire District.

"We want seniors from all our communities to be able to come to the fair Wednesday, for Senior Day, and support their princess in the My Fair Lady Pageant," said PUD spokesperson Sherry Welter.

Deon Owen will wed in Illinois

The upcoming wedding of her daughter, Deon Rae Mangham (Owen) to Jason Wayne Marianna, has been announced by Sue Owen of Vernonia.

Deon is a graduate of Vernonia High School. She and Jason are both currently attending Shimer College in Waukegan, Illinois.

The wedding ceremony will take place July 1 in Waukegan.

Dads in our midst.

We have hired a janitor and it is nice to have new cobwebs. The old ones were very dusty. This time of the year, we don't feel we need to apologize to all those homeless spiders.

Birthdays for July are as follows:

July 1, Margaret Berndt; 3, Tessie Aldrich; 4, Our Nation; 6, Isabel Culbertson; 12, Marge

Renewed "Silver Tea" a success

"An outstanding success," was the common refrain heard to describe the Silver Tea sponsored by Vernonia Study Club. Members of the organization greeted guests in the Thiele Petti meeting room of the Vernonia Public Library. The tea was a renewal of an old custom which saw a "coffee" or "tea" offered annually.

The room, decorated with spring yellow table covers and set off with fresh flowers, appeared most inviting. Coffee and punch were served, with cookies made by the Study club members. A considerable number of old and new friends were greeted during the after-

Trahan; 22, Ruth Tandy; 23, Bob Wiley; 26, Aretha Ritz; 30, Scottie Weimer.

Happy Birthday. Go wave a flag and have another piece of cake.

I plan to be reading *The INDEPENDENT* in my new home, so all of you had better be behaving. 'Til I see you again, Goodbye and God bless.

Pat

noon.

Gifts of money were accepted by the Study Club, with proceeds being used to benefit the library. The total for the event came to \$142.50; later donations from individuals and an additional gift from Vernonia Study Club raised the sum considerably.

Among items being considered for purchase for the library is a laminating machine and

materials. This would enable the library to laminate cards, photos, and reports for use in the building as well as provide a service to the public for a nominal fee.

Wu leads Father's Day measure

Congressman David Wu led an effort Monday to pass a resolution recognizing the importance of fathers in raising and the development of their children. The resolution also encourages fathers to be actively involved in child rearing by spending time in schools and other activities.

"Each child deserves responsible parents who are involved in their schools and other aspects of their lives," said Congressman Wu. "As the father of two children, I know

firsthand that spending time with children at their school and at home is not only important for children, but important for parents as well."

Congressman Wu said, "This resolution sends a strong signal that parental involvement is important for families and for our nation."

Congressman Wu managed time on the floor of the U.S. House for Democratic speakers on H. Res. 522, also known as the Fathers Day Resolution. The measure passed on a voice vote.

Elements of child care important

Most parents want the best child care they can afford for their children. But parents of children ages six weeks to 24 months are faced with fewer possibilities than parents of older children and may have a difficult search when looking for infant or toddler child care in Columbia County.

Registered family child care providers may care for only two children ages six weeks to 24 months (including the providers' own children).

Not all registered family child care providers are willing to care for children under 24 months of age.

Certified child care centers must have one caregiver for every four children between the ages of six weeks and 30 months, with a maximum of eight infant/toddlers per group.

Research shows the importance of quality child care especially during the first years of life. But many parents in Columbia County find that they must use informal or exempt care for their infants and tod-

dlers because of the lack of availability.

There are some things that parents can look for to help insure that their child is receiving quality child care:

- Be sure that the provider is warm, loving and responsive.
- The child care provider should respond to the child's cues and clues.
- The person caring for your child should talk, read and sing to your child (no matter how young your child is).
- There should be established routines and rituals.
- TV watching should be selective.
- The caregiver should encourage safe exploration and play.
- Discipline should be used as an opportunity to teach.

If you are interested in providing child care or want more information about quality child care, contact Caring Options, at (503) 397-3511 or toll free at 1-800-404-3511.

Remember, one good turn gets the blanket!

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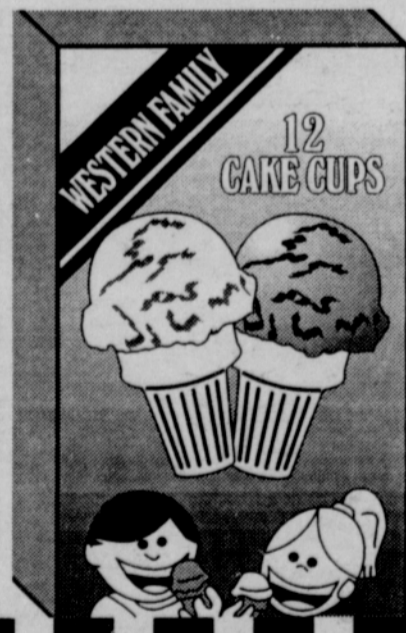
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