

Community

Vernonia Senior Center

By Karen Miller

A while back when I was asked to join the Senior Center, my life was thrown into a tailspin – seniors!! Where did the time go? But hey, there are truly some inspirational people down here. Life doesn't have to be over after all! Why, one of our own senior ladies at the age of 86, is learning to surf! The web, that is. Now if I can keep up with Scotty Weimer, that will be an accomplishment!

We are selling tickets for a quilt that was handmade by Nellie Tipton. Tickets are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held Dec. 3. Proceeds of the raffle will go to COLCO transportation.

Come down Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for bread, pastries, etc., that are sold here at the center.

Street sweeping schedule told

The City of Vernonia has set a schedule for street sweeping. If you own a business or live on a curbed street, it is important to pay attention to the sweeping schedule in order to park vehicles off the street on sweeping days.

Sweeping is scheduled for July 21, Aug. 4 and 18, Sept. 1.

Sweeping of Highway 47 from the south city limits to Bridge and California will begin at 5:00 a.m. on the above days.

After September 1, street sweeping will occur on the first and third Fridays of every month (weather dependent in the winter months).

Before the streets are swept, vehicles parked on the streets during sweeping days and hours will be ticketed for a parking violation. Once a street has been swept, cars will not be ticketed for parking there.

For further information, call Robyn L. Bassett, Director of Public Works at 429-6921.

Monitor will sit in for Life Guard

There are not enough lifeguards available for the City of Vernonia to have a certified lifeguard on duty at all times.

During normal pool hours, from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., if there is no lifeguard on duty, there will be a pool area monitor to enforce pool rules. The monitor will have CPR and first aid certification, but not lifeguard certification.

Signs will specify whether a lifeguard is on duty or not. When no lifeguard is on duty, children should be accompanied by a responsible person.

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We want to thank all the kids that came and did the cleaning for a day here at the center. The effort was sponsored by the Nehalem Valley Bible Church.

COLCO Transportation serves the Vernonia community of all ages. The out of town schedule is as follows:

Monday and Wednesday trips to Hillsboro, Beaverton, Portland and Forest Grove are \$10. On Thursday, trips to St. Helens are \$8. Please call 429-4304 by 2:00 p.m. the day before to reserve your spot on the van.

A "guess the baby" photo contest is set for this Jam-

boree. Photos must be turned in to the Senior Center by July 15. All seniors can turn in a photo – the more entries the more fun. This is a fundraiser for the Center, with each guess being 25 cents.

Friday, June 30, there was a full house for our send-off luncheon for Eric and Pat Olson, who are relocating to Grants Pass. This dedicated husband and wife team will be missed here at the senior center and in the community.

To Eric and Pat...we'll see you further up the creek. With the weather we've been having, that doesn't sound like a bad idea!!

Senior Center needed in B'feld

Birkenfeld/Fishhawk Lake is trying to establish a senior center and is looking for volunteers to deliver meals-on-wheels, work towards developing their own kitchen, initiate fundraisers and other purposes.

In the last month, there have been 14 requests for helping

seniors in the area. The need for a center is obvious. Senior Centers can be partially funded by county and state funds, but all centers have to raise some funds to support themselves. They cannot do this without community help. Call Louise Green to support this worthy and necessary cause.

County Health targets Hispanic aid

Patricia Reed is working in Columbia County as a Health Promotora focusing on outreach to the Hispanic community.

A Promotora is a bilingual outreach worker who strives to connect the Hispanic members of the community to health care and social services.

Funded through the Oregon Pacific Area Health Education Center, there are Promotoras in many Oregon counties. Reed works out of Public Health and can be reached by calling 397-4651, or 1-800-244-4870.

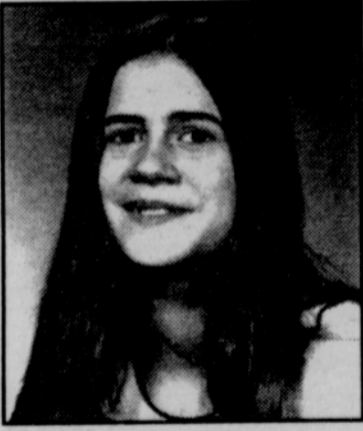
Reed, 43, said she is looking for opportunities to talk to groups about her role in the county. She grew up in New Mexico and was trained as a nurse before moving to Longview, Wash., in 1988. She and her husband Frank have two sons.

"I am working to see that the needs of Columbia County's Hispanic residents are met and to help them understand that their health is important," said Reed.

Reed will provide referrals to medical/dental services, domestic violence shelters, alcohol/drug counseling and other counseling programs. She will refer to Public Health programs including TB, hepatitis and HIV screening, family planning services and the Breast and Cervical Cancer programs

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Improvements at Fair Grounds

There will be an open house at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Friday, July 7, to celebrate the completion of a new kitchen in the Pavilion Building and the new fairgrounds office, now located in the former maintenance building.

The Pavilion building was adopted by Columbia River PUD four years ago. PUD employees have made several improvements to the building, including new interior and exterior paint, baby changing stations in the restrooms, and other minor repairs. The new kitchen was added to make the building better suited to hosting parties and events.

"We appreciate the time and money that the PUD has put into the adoption of the Pavilion," said Fairgrounds Administrator Evelyn Hudson. "It has

made the grounds a better place for the community to enjoy."

The Pavilion can accommodate 775 people for a sit-down banquet, but the old kitchen wasn't suitable for use by caterers, so large groups were hesitant to rent the building. The new kitchen is designed to accommodate catering for all size groups, with a commercial refrigerator and range, and a large pass-through counter.

Tours of the new kitchen and office will be offered and cake and coffee will be served from 4-7 p.m. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. in the Pavilion.

"This kitchen makes the Pavilion Building much more useful for the community," said Hudson. "We welcome everyone to come out and see what the fairgrounds has to offer."

Reception scheduled for Fishers

They're leaving us! Dale and Genny Fisher are moving from Vernonia to The Dalles. There will be an informal reception in their honor on July 7, from 6:30

to 9:00 p.m. at the Scout Cabin. The community is invited.

Contact Donna Gehrke at 429-5201 for more information.

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