

Community

Senior News

By Karen Miller

Nancy Sinatra's boots may have been made for walking all right, but she wouldn't have gotten far with problem feet! Pamper your feet once a month here at the center. A podiatrist will be available every second Tuesday. Cost is \$15. Call Willie Brewer for appointments.

Come in and browse around at our craft and Christmas department for some great buys; our Christmas holiday merchandise is put out for the season.

Congratulations to our 2 raffle winners from the Christmas Bazaar: Teresa Bernardi won the antique teacart. Elsie Frey won Nellie Tipton's quilt. And the rest of you who bought tick-

ets? Thank you for donating to the senior center!

The Doll Club spent a delightful day at the historic Pittock Mansion Dec. 4th. If you have never been there, you must! This season it is decorated with teddy bears, past and present.

We are happy to report our senior advocate Candy Olson's son, Nick, is home recovering from major cyst surgery performed inside of his chest. He is doing well but has recovery time ahead.

Don't you just love the holiday lights around Vernonia? Even my husband is really getting into the Christmas spirit this season! When I started to lose my voice last week, he lit up like a Christmas tree.

Till next year, the COLCO staff: Teresa Baska, Debbie Benedict, Karen Miller, and dispatcher Bill Yeo, wishes you a Happy New Year, and thanks for your patronage from all of us at the Senior Center.

INFORMATION NUMBERS

COLCO Transportation
..... 429-4304
Senior Advocate.. 429-9112
Senior Center..... 429-3912

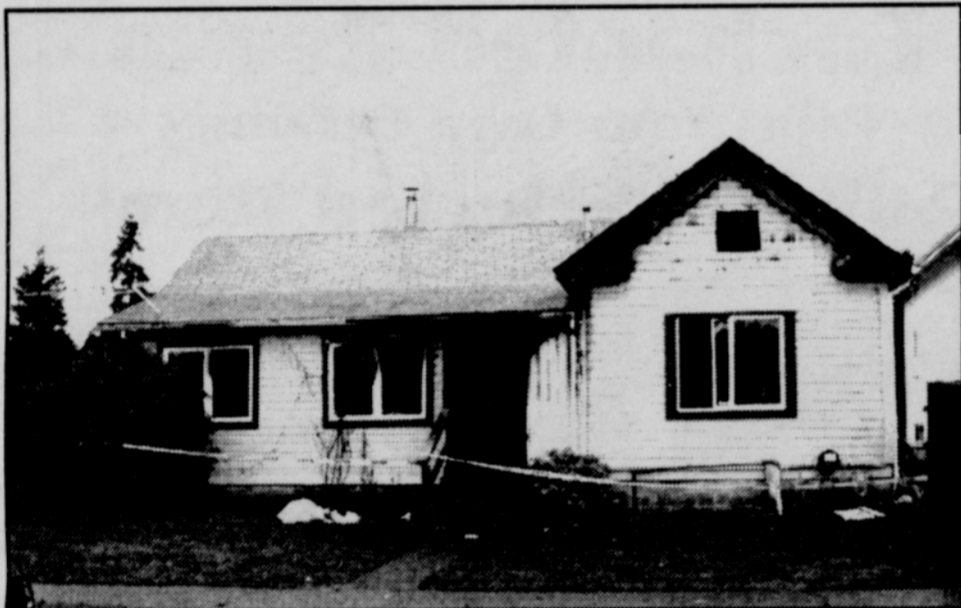
Master Gardener classes scheduled

Home gardeners in Columbia County with a thirst for more gardening knowledge and a willingness to pass that knowledge on to others can still join the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener program.

The Master Gardener program is designed to teach volunteers how to make better use of their gardening resources and abilities. They, in turn, teach others. Volunteers are given training in soil management, vegetable gardening techniques, landscape maintenance, pest control and many other aspects of gardening. Then, during the gardening season, these new Master Gardeners help to teach others to do a better job of growing and caring for plants, fighting off pests and making our communities a better place to live.

Classes are held once a week for eleven consecutive weeks in St. Helens and other metro area locations. Classes will be held on Mondays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm beginning in January. The first class will be on Wednesday, January 3. The following classes are on Mondays. There is a fee of \$35 for reference materials.

For more information about the program and about how to enroll, contact the Columbia County Extension office located in the Courthouse in St. Helens or call 503-397-3462.



No one was injured when the home of Ron and Trish Maldonado went up in flames earlier this month. The Maldonados and their three children lost everything in the home, which is owned by the Vernonia Christian Church.

Christmas Eve worship service

The community is invited to share the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Vernonia Community Church, on December 24, at 6:00 p.m. There will be many traditional and new Christmas songs, a reading of the Bible story of Jesus' birth, a short sermon, the lighting of candles and a celebration of communion.

Vernonia Cares will elect officers for 2001

New board members will be elected for Vernonia Cares at its meeting on Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the American Legion building at 627 Adams Avenue, Vernonia. Nominations can be made at the meeting and voting will take place that evening. Offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are available.

For more information, contact Lisa Edgar at Vernonia Cares on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 503-429-1414, or at home, 503-429-4013.

Church Bulletin Bloopers

8 new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Vernonia Community Church is located at 957 State Avenue. For more information, call 503-429-6790.

Vernonia Community Church also hosts Awana Club for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The club meets Wednesdays after school, from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Less money hurts shelter efforts

Oregon Housing and Community Services has released their report on Homelessness in Oregon and its linkages to hunger. Data collected from Community Action Agencies was utilized to prepare this report. The report summarized state funded homeless programs, how funds are used, the population served, unmet needs and current trends in homelessness.

Over the past ten years, state funded homeless programs administered by OHCS have decreased by four percent, while those seeking homeless assistance in Oregon increased by 105 percent. In the same time period, turn-away numbers have increased by 163 percent. The report shows that on any given night, 8,840 Oregonians are seeking shelter assistance, 37 percent of which are children under age 17 and 2,168 are children un-

der age 11. Last year, 24 percent were turned away from assistance due to lack of space or funding. These turnaways included 794 children on any given night.

"The face of homelessness has changed from single, unemployed males to working families with extensive needs," says Bob Repine, Director of Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). "These needs may include chronic homelessness, substance abuse, patterns of domestic violence, extended legal issued, poor credit ratings, poor rental histories, lack of job skills and other problems all wrapped up in one household."

For more information, or a copy of the report, contact Jodie Jones, Homeless Programs Coordinator at 503-986-2096 or e-mail <jodie.jones@hcs.state.or.us>.

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