

VHS senior Myriam Gendron receives DAR Good Citizen Award



Award winners Sophia Franz of Scappoose High School, at left, and Myriam Gendron of Vernonia High School flank Acting Regent Patricia Wheeler of Mount St. Helens Daughters of American Revolution. Not pictured is Paula Nagunst, award winner from Rainier High School.

Myriam Gendron, a senior at Vernonia High School, was the Columbia County winner of an essay competition sponsored by the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR).

Gendron earned first place, and one of three Good Citizens Awards, with her essay on preserving the American heritage. She was chosen for the com-

petition by local DAR member Patricia Wheeler on the basis of her application, which included personal information, recommendations, transcripts and test scores.

The DAR annual scholarship contest includes cash prizes along with the awards at county, district, state and national levels. One candidate from each high school in Columbia County was selected for

participation.

"It was an honor to represent my school," said Gendron. "I didn't know how many other applicants there would be, but I figured I would try."

"I was so glad when they announced my name," she continued. "My essay went on to district, where it placed second. If it had gotten first, I would have gone on to state. Still, I'm glad I participated."

MADD offers suggestions for spring teen events

Spring break, prom time and graduation are the highlights of the school year for many teens. It is a time for celebration.

MADD, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission and local law enforcement agencies remind you that these are also times for celebrations of joyous events in your children's lives. Before allowing alcohol to become a part of these celebrations, consider the risks.

Furnishing alcoholic beverages to someone other than your own child in your own res-

idence is against the law. It can lead to fines of up to \$1,000 per minor cited and thirty days in jail. The person providing the alcohol, or even providing a place to party, can be required to pay restitution for any damages incurred and can be sued in civil court. You may also be held liable for any damages from traffic crashes that are the result of consumption on your premises.

Deciding that "at least the drinking can be controlled if it is in my home" will not do your

children or their friends any favors. Before you provide alcohol to teenagers, ask yourself if you can afford to take the risk of losing everything, including your home, job and possibly someone's life?

Every parent's worst nightmare is a knock on the door in the middle of the night. Be sure your child comes home safe and sober.

For more information, plus suggestions for safe and sober celebrations, call 503-397-6157 or visit www.madd.org

Forums on health issues for men

Tuality Health Education Center will present three free classes on health issues for men on Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The first class, Colorectal Cancer Update, will be led by Patrick Y. Lee, M.D., colon and rectal surgeon, Tuality Health-care medical staff. Cancer of the colon and rectum has become a significant killer in this country, largely because of people's discomfort with getting tested. In this program, participants will gain an understanding of the current research on the potential causes of colorectal cancer, the latest in diagnostic and screening techniques and treatment options.

Evaluating Treatment for Impotence will begin at 10:15 a.m., led by Shammai Rockove, M.D., director, Center for Men's and Women's Urology, Gresham; and former director of Erectile Dysfunction Center, Oregon Health Sciences University. About 30 million men in

the U.S. suffer from erectile dysfunction. This presentation will explore current research and treatment options for male impotence, especially as it relates to men who have been diagnosed with cancer.

At 11:15 a.m., Self-Esteem and Sexual Performance will be led by Jerry Shipp, M.A., LMFT, licensed psychologist, marriage and family therapist, Western Psychological & Counseling Services, Hillsboro. Today's American male has a lot of his identity and self-esteem wrapped up in his sexuality. When sexual performance is threatened or impaired by disease or surgery, men may question their "maleness" and wonder if they are "doomed" to a life of celibacy. This frank presentation will focus on the emotional and relational efforts of this physical impairment.

The Tuality Health Education Center is located at 334 SE Eighth Avenue in Hillsboro. The classes are free and no registration is required.

Apply now for local scholarships

Local scholarship applications are now available at the Vernonia High School office for seniors and alumni. There will be more than \$30,000 in local scholarship funds for students

pursuing post-high school training. The due date for applications is April 23 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information, call Jill Griffin at VHS, 503-429-3521.

Academy looks at Scappoose site

A public meeting is scheduled for March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Scappoose High School cafeteria to consider a proposal to site a new campus for the state law enforcement training

academy next to Scappoose Airport. The academy, operated by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, is currently located in Monmouth.

Qual-Med Health Plan fined by insurance division

QualMed Oregon Health Plan, Inc., has been fined \$50,000 for violating state insurance laws and administrative rules.

The fine was imposed after a market conduct examination by the Insurance Division of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services of the company's operations from April to July, 1999.

QualMed, now known as Health Net Health Plan of Oregon, Inc., admitted to failing to pay health insurance claims without conducting a reasonable investigation. Insurance

Division examiners found that QualMed refused to pay almost a third of randomly selected claims without a reasonable investigation.

QualMed also admitted to improperly imposing pre-existing condition limits and not giving individuals credit for previous coverage under the Oregon Health Plan. They also admitted to improperly using individual health statements to determine whether to provide group health coverage.

The Insurance Division found similar violations by QualMed during past market

conduct examinations.

QualMed has been licensed in Oregon as a domestic health care service contractor since 1989. Its main administrative offices are in Clackamas.

The company was fined \$15,000 by the Insurance Division in 1996 for improperly denying emergency room claims without conducting a reasonable investigation.

For complete copies of Insurance Division enforcement actions, visit the division's web site at www.oregoninsurance.org Click on Enforcement actions.

Time to sign up for Great Oregon Beach Clean-up

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 31 – the 17th Annual Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup. Thousands of volunteers who care about Oregon's livability are needed to help at the state's beaches from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to clean the entire coastline between the Washington and California borders. Volunteers are asked to check in at one of 40 meeting sites, pick up a bag and head down to the beach to do their part in improving our coastline for wildlife and summer visitors. Coordinators of the event suggest volunteers bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Complimentary bags will be furnished by beach cleanup coordinators. Groups of 20 or more are asked to register in advance with the appropriate Zone Captain.

"We want to emphasize Volunteer Safety this spring more than ever," said Jack McGowan, SOLV's Executive Director. "Knowledge of basic beach safety and adherence to some basic guidelines can help reduce the potential for accidents and injuries." Volunteers are requested to be aware of these safety tips while on the beach:

- Don't turn your back on the ocean. Watch out for sneaker waves.
- Don't play on or around logs.
- Exercise extreme caution on rocks and cliffs.

The Spring Beach Cleanup poster, an Oregon coast color photo by Rick Schafer, is avail-

able from SOLV for \$10. The poster was created by Sandstrom Design and produced by Moore Litho, Color Technology, Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co., and Lincoln & Allen Bindery.

For more information, call SOLV at 1-800-322-3326 or visit their web site at www.solv.org

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