

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



You say you don't like the weather, well, wait just a minute — see, it changed, didn't it?

Except, God heard our prayers and let it be nice for our first Salmon Festival. It was just right for pumpkin carving, scarecrow building, and especially hay rides around town and to Salmon watching spots on rivers and creeks. Some visitors to town had never seen such a sight or tasted such fresh fish. What a treat for them.

Kudos to the brave folks that got dunked, dunked and dunked again — The music was VERY good and all listened while enjoying the day. But — I've got to study up on my fish migration habits and I'm a born Oregon River Rat (I mean brat).

I understand there is a group of folks wanting to start up a PTA. Good for them. My last hitch with them was back in the 70's in Condon. People got so busy, only teachers were at the meetings, so they folded. No input, no benefits, to school or kids — it was Bad.

Guess what happens this time of year? Most organizations start looking for new officers — now don't all of you go out of town. Figure out who you could be a benefit to, let them know you're interested in their work.

Halloween is just around the corner and then comes Thanksgiving and then — Christmas, Bazaar time. The Senior Center will be having theirs on their home ground again. Individual tables are again available, along with a Quilt raffle and the homemade goodies and "handiwork" of anyone wishing to donate to our cause. A new Senior Center.

This time of year causes one to start thinking of what to serve for the holidays. Believe me, it's not too early.

Consider what it takes to make a meal for four to five people or more.

Turkey or chicken or ham, spuds, sweet potatoes, dressing, gravy, a vegetable or two, hot rolls, pie, cake, coffee, tea, milk, pop and, of course, chips and dips and veggie tray, and don't forget the cranberry

sauce.

Have you any idea what a bare bones meal costs if you have none of the above in your cupboard? I went shopping — \$35 is almost a low figure. (Remember, there won't be many leftovers for a later snacking either.)

If you can go all out, good for you. Now, I'm asking you for something you can do to help

others have a real Christmas dinner.

When you shop, buy extra. Put it in a box for Vernonia Cares for their Christmas Boxes — They needed 150 last year. This year, the clientele has risen and they figure 200 boxes may be low, but pray not.

At some time in all of our lives, there has probably been

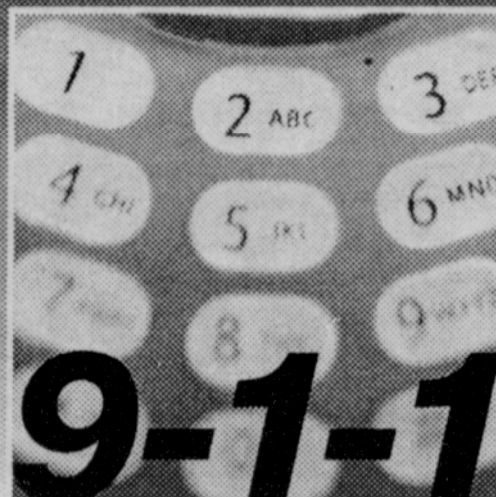
a time when help was very much needed — now it's pay-back time.

Below is a list of what Vernonia Cares hopes to put in every box for a "Christmas Dinner" — it is not too soon to start.

Turkey or Ham — 4 cans of fruit — 3 cans of vegetables — 1 box or 5 pounds of potatoes, 2 packages of gravy mix, 1 box of

stuffing mix, 1 can of olives, 1 can of cranberries, 2 cans of pumpkin filling, 1 can of evaporated milk, 1 bar of hand soap, 1 bottle of dishsoap, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins.

Remember, this is excluding a lot all of us take for granted, because it's stuff around every day — just pull it out of the cupboard and start eating.



Three numbers you know and trust.

When you flip the light switch, you expect the lights to turn on. And when you call 9-1-1, you expect that someone will be there to send help right away.

Like so many things we may take for granted, Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District is a service you can count on. If there's an emergency, it's comforting to know that you can just pick up a phone—anytime, anywhere—and there's someone on the line within seconds. Literally seconds.

It's also comforting to know that your 9-1-1 Call Center is staffed with highly trained professionals. Using computer-aided dispatch, they coordinate all public safety and emergency medical agencies throughout the county. With the support of federal grants, the District will greatly improve its communications and public safety capabilities with a new microwave radio "backbone" that covers our entire county, which will begin operating in November.

Your Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District, serving all of our communities since 1990.

We all have the ability to keep this essential 9-1-1 service working for us. The five-year renewal has been submitted for voter approval in the November 4th election, which requires a 50% voter turn-out in addition to majority approval. For more information, go to www.columbia911.com or call 503-397-7255.

