

## Community

# Planning begins for spring river rafting, and arts event

A planning meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 8, for a Vernonia River Raft and Arts & Crafts Festival in May. Sponsored by the Vernonia Lions, the emphasis will be on river-related activities of various sorts, including kayak, canoe or rafting races, plus rubber ducky contests for all ages.

In addition to arts and crafts, proposed activities will include a fishing tournament at Vernonia Lake, hay rides, a horseshoe tournament, arcade games for children and adults, a parade of homemade rafts and a home brew contest.

All interested parties are invited to participate in the 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Buckhorn Restaurant (formerly Lew's Place). Local non-profit organizations are particularly urged to get involved to see how they may join in the fun while earning money for their other activities. Heading up the festival committee will be Lions Vice-president Mark Hall. A portion of the proceeds from this event will go toward construction of a skate/bike park in Vernonia. For further information, call 503 429-8382.

## Senior News

By Karen Miller



Happy New Year 2004 to all of you from all of us here at the Senior Center! We're looking forward to new programs, new ideas, new people here and about and some new faces. We'd like to say, "Not OUT with the old and in with the new, but KEEP the old AND in with the new!" Everyone is welcome and invited to be a part of us.

Now, speaking of new, we'd like to welcome some new additions to our Board: President Bill James, Secretary Gail Snethen, and board members

Gene Baska and Carl Holsey. Welcome back to Vice President Bill Yeo and board members Pat Derrick, Dick Rosin, Necia DeWitt, and Treasurer George Gans.

It is with heartfelt thanks that we bid a fond "farewell" to our outgoing President, Ruth Bell, for all the dedicated hours she has put in here at the Center this past year. At nearly 80, it is time for her to slow down, now that remains to be seen. I'll tell ya' Ruth can run circles around most of us young 'uns. She is a real inspiration to many – and we will be welcoming her around here still, answering all our distress calls for help.

Another member who can run circles around most of us is outgoing Secretary Bernice Frey, who has held that position

for the past 15 years. Thank you, Bernice. We are sure you will have no trouble filling your time in your well-deserved break.

We also appreciate our regular thrift store helpers – Sharon Gibson, Pat Lloyd, Ramona Manusos, Susie Fudge, as well as all those who help on occasion. We thank you!

Thank you to ALL our helpers that give of their time. More profiles to come.

Our first Happy Birthday of the new year goes to Irene Siedelman. Happy (WOW!!) 90th Birthday, Irene!

### INFORMATION NUMBERS

Senior Advocate... 429-9112  
Senior Center..... 429-3912  
Transportation..... 429-4504

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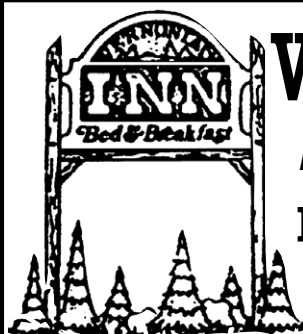
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## Scrabble Night, ballroom dance lessons slated at Vernonia Grange

The Vernonia Community Grange, will hold a "Scrabble Night" on Saturday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your board and brain, and enjoy an evening of matching wits with other players! Everyone is welcome.

Lessons in ballroom-type dancing will continue this January and will be preparing folks for the "Sweethearts Ball," February 14, at the Grange Hall. Lessons are tentatively set for January 24, beginning at 7:00 p.m., with a dance following the lessons. The cost will be \$2.00 per person for the evening. Further details will be in the next issue of The Independent.

The North Street Players community drama group, buoyed by the success of their first presentation, "A Christmas Carol," has begun planning for their next endeavor.

If you would like to be involved or want more information, call Sally Harrison at 503-429-8425. The North Street Players are sponsored by the Vernonia Community Grange.