

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



What should we contemplate this week? The weather? Rain is better

than hard ball snow and frozen rain any day. The mud that goes with it, I'm not too fond of; you can't get into cleaning flower beds yet.

How many of you are still unaware the fish commission loosed 140 steelhead into the Mill Pond (Lake) on the 14th of January??

I happened to be there, of course with Shadow. No, really, I don't live there. It was neat seeing the dorsal fins cutting through the thin ice as they swam out into the lake. I thought to myself – What a centerpiece, split open, filled with lemon butter, golden brown, baked with red potatoes and peas for a bed. Yum, yum.

Or, how about a twist on an old song. Floating down the Nehalem on a Sunday afternoon. The birds and bees frozen in the trees. No sun above to speak of love on a Sunday afternoon, just you and me together dangling fish poles in the stream, hoping to catch our dinner on a Sunday afternoon.

Did you get the crossword puzzle worked? Me, no, not my speed. I go for find-a-word, getting ready for the senior

spelling bee on April 3.

Did you send in your vote?

The Clinic will be presenting "Falls – How to Prevent or Help those Fallen" on February 25 at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m.

I picked up another old book at the Senior Center. *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane, written in 1894. Very good reading. Made you evaluate yourself. How would I do – Fight or Flight?

Yes, now a bite or two.

When it's foggy, hi, low, dense or pea soup, and you are driving in and out of it, do you turn on your lights? I do, I want to be seen. This past couple of weeks there have been many air-heads out there, even a logger or three that don't think it's necessary. Am I that wrong?

And – how about having to pay to air a tire when you find yourself miles from home and gas stations only sell gas and food and stuff. Thank you – sir, if I pay for gas, you should air my tires in need.

I perceive myself to be getting OLD. There is nothing on TV anymore, if you are on cable. Even Animal Planet and National Geographic are re-running re-runs. I do not go for "soaps," never did. So-called fun entertainment shows are stupidly done. Even the news is in a rut. Nothing to lift you up.

It's time for the sun to shine so we can get out and enjoy the weather.

The most common bad weather mood is fatigue, depression, insomnia and headaches are next. Bye, bye.

The Great Depression subject of Chautauqua Program at library

The Great Depression: "WPA files to illustrate the plight of Americans during these hard times." Brother Can You Spare a Dime?" another in the series of Oregon Chautauqua Programs hosted by the Vernonia Public Library, explores the human side of the depression and how it affected people in all walks of life. Vernonia Public Library will host on February 17 at 4:00 p.m.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was a time when almost fifteen million workers could not find jobs. Some roamed the country in freight cars or lived in shantytowns derisively called "Hoovervilles."

This program, presented by Twilo Scofield, focuses on the lean years of 1929 to 1933, the causes of the Depression, and the recovery programs that brought relief for many Americans. Scofield uses photographs, personal accounts, songs and materials from the

WPA files to illustrate the plight of Americans during these hard times.

Scofield has deep Oregon roots. Her great-grandfather was an Oregon homesteader, and homegrown music, old songs and homespun tales surrounded her early years. She has a life-long interest in music and oral history.

Scofield has taught in public schools in Oregon for more than thirty years. She did her graduate work at the University of Oregon, focusing on the study of folklore. Twilo combines her knowledge of folklore and music as she collects oral history, stories and songs in various communities of Oregon.

The public is invited to hear about this fascinating time in American history. There is no charge and refreshments will be provided following the program.

Welcome Additions

Laila Marie Serna

Laila Maria Serna was born December 3, 2003, to Maranda Barton, of Vernonia, and Josh Serna. She weighed seven pounds, six ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Tori and Ahron Barton of Vernonia and Delores and Lupe Serna of Texas.

Great-grandparents are Donna and Lewis Trujillo of Portland.

School exclusion day set for Feb. 18

This year, school exclusion day will be February 18. If schools do not have up-to-date immunization records by that time, children will be sent home. Children who have a medical or religious exemption on file will not be sent home.

Families with insurance can get childhood immunizations from their physician. Uninsured families can call Public Health at 503-397-4651 or 1-800-244-4870. The records are kept at the school, not Public Health, and updated information needs to go to each child's school.

Happy Valentine's Day

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*Once you've earned your 2500 Life Time Points you are eligible to start spending your points. You may also buy up the rate on a CD for up to 1 year term.

HAVE YOU EVER LOVED?

HAVE A GOOD TIME, COME CELEBRATE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE JUNCTION (FORMERLY J'S PLACE)

MEET, EAT & KICK UP YOUR FEET AT THE JUNCTION!!



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