

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



I am guessing you know Spring is not here yet. It is too cold, too foggy and

there's no real heat in the sun. The old folk are still bundled up in their sweats!

Valentine's Day was made happier at the Senior Center Party due to the Lincoln School 2nd graders' Valentine cards – a special thank you to Miss Charlotte who made the one I received – Thank you to all of you kids' hard work.

Flash #1. Audeen tells me the Spelling Bee has been moved back one day to April 2nd at 1:00 p.m., still at the Senior Center, though. Seems there is something else happening on the 3rd and we don't want a conflict of interest to keep you from entering the Spelling Bee. For your crossword or spelling bee – Ubiquitous = being everywhere at once.

Question?? Do you know personally someone born on February 29?? I don't; strange you can live 80 years and not have run into at least one person. I know several born on April 1 and a couple born on Christmas or New Year's Day

and even Valentine's Day.

Flash # 2. The pink flamingoes are back – I hope they find enough to eat. I saw them in the City Hall flower bed the other day.

Flash # 3. If you missed page 7 in the February 5 issue of The Independent, Donkey Basketball is due back in April in Vernonia. Mark your calendar – Last year it was a blast of the past.

City Council in Banks – but – I've lived in several different towns and this I know. You cannot make a horse drink water if it does not want to, even if you lead it to the source. Likewise City Council meetings are open to the public. You are allowed to speak, if you ask to be heard. But, you have to turn off your T.V., leave your house, go to the meetings. Open your eyes, ears, mind and mouth. The Mayor is a person chosen by a vote of the people (all who vote) who clarifies problems and does the mandate of the people, after the council (also chosen by the people) has voted yea or nay. The Mayor is not the only voice in town.

A field mouse can jump to the ground from heights of 20 feet without hurting itself.

Flash # 4. Our Vernonia swan has taken up residence on a private pond – so it's not dead.

Plaza of Discovery meeting Feb. 23

There will be a Plaza of Discovery committee meeting on Monday, February 23 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be at Scap-

poose Bay Kayaking, 57420 Old Portland Road in Warren.

For information or special accommodations, contact Jan at 503-397-4322.

WWII Saipan and Tinian Vets sought for anniversary honors

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs in conjunction with the Committee for the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of WWII, is asking for help in locating veterans who fought in the WWII Battles of Saipan and Tinian. Veterans who took part in these battles will be honored in a historic anniversary event to be held June 12-16, 2004, on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

More than 70,000 American marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen fought the World War II battles for Tinian and Saipan, and more than 4,000 lost their

lives. The airfields on Tinian and Saipan were critical for the B-29 missions that hastened the end of the war, including the historic flight of the Enola Gay.

If you or someone you know was involved in either of these battles, send the name and contact information to Jessica Jordan, <marianas04anniversary@yahoo.com>, phone: 607-234-7211, or mail: PMB 409 Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950.

For more information about the 60th Anniversary of the Battle for Saipan and Tinian, visit the website at <www.WorldWarII.info>.

Vernonia military student chosen for Who's Who Among Students

Cadet Anthony C. Morrow of Vernonia was selected for Who's Who Among Students In American Junior Colleges, from Marion Military Institute, Marion, Alabama. He is the son of Mrs. Jill Wiseman of Vernonia. Cadet Morrow was among 15 students from Marion Military Institute who have been selected nationally as outstanding campus leaders.

Students are included based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

They join an elite group of students from more than 1,400 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

April 1 deadline nears for tax exemption on veterans' property

April 1 is the deadline to apply for the Oregon veterans' property tax exemption. Qualified disabled veterans, or their surviving spouses, may be entitled to exempt either \$10,160 or \$13,520 of their property's assessed value from property taxes.

The \$10,160 exemption applies to war veterans with disabilities of 40 percent or more and to war veterans' surviving spouses who have not remar-

ried. The \$13,520 exemption applies to war veterans with service-connected disabilities of 40 percent or more. It also applies to spouses of war veterans who died of service-connected illness or injury or who received this exemption before.

Additional information is available at the local county tax assessor's office and on the Department of Revenue's web site at <www.dor.state.or.us> under Publications.

In the Service

John J. Marshall

Army National Guard Pvt. John J. Marshall has graduated from One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia. The training consisted of basic military training and advanced individual training (AIT).

Marshall is the son of Margaret Marshall of Manning. He is a 2002 graduate of Banks High School.

Online historic preservation survey due Mar. 1

Oregon's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has an online survey to gather public input for revising Oregon's comprehensive historic preservation plan.

Posted on the Internet at <http://www.hcd.state.or.us>, the survey is designed as a follow up to a series of 24 public meetings conducted around the state last fall. The questionnaire will be appear on the HCD website until March 1.

"We sent teams all across the state to gather opinions from Oregonians about what matters most to them about historic preservation and heritage in their local communities," said David Bogan, cultural education specialist for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Heritage Conservation Division (HCD). "Now we are asking the same set of questions on our website so that people who were not able to attend the meetings can participate."

On March 5, SHPO staff will present results of the survey at a daylong meeting of historic preservation stakeholders in Salem. The work session, which will begin at 10 a.m. at the historic Grand Lodge Ballroom, 187 High Street NE, will review comments made at meetings and online.

SHPO will use results of the March 5 work to develop a first draft of the plan's revision, which will be distributed to the general public for comment. In October, SHPO will submit a final draft to the National Park Service.

More information about the survey and work session is available from David Bogan, phone 503-986-0671, or e-mail <David.Bogan@state.or.us>.

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