

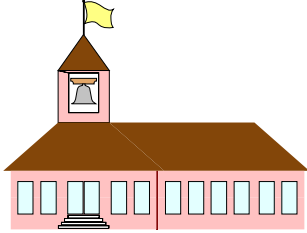
Community

NW Regional ESD now seeking Board members

A pilot project, that changes how directors of Education Service Districts are selected, was passed by the state legislature in 2005 and becomes effective in July of 2006.

The Northwest Regional ESD (NWRESD) is one of three ESDs designated for the new regulations, which will change the board of directors from one elected by citizens at large, to one chosen by local school boards.

For this reason, NWRESD is seeking candidates interested in filling the five new board positions. School boards in each zone will vote for an ESD board member by March 20, 2006. The five new board members will take office July 1, 2006, and serve a four-year term ending June 30, 2010.



The following zones will have one position each on the board:

Zone 2 includes the Astoria, Banks, Forest Grove, Jewell, Knappa, Neah-Kah-Nie, Nestucca Valley, Seaside, Tillamook and Warrenton-Hammond districts;

Zone 4 includes the Beaverton (Beaverton and Sunset high school attendance areas), Clatskanie, Rainier, Scappoose, St. Helens and Vernonia districts.

Candidates may pick up application packets at one of the following ESD service centers, or download a packet from the website, <www.nwresd.k12.or.us.>; Columbia County, 800 Port Avenue, St. Helens, or call 503-397-0028 or Washington County/Regional Office at 5825 NE Ray Circle, Hillsboro, or call 503-614-1428.

Applications must be received by the Oregon Department of Education no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 17. Questions may be directed to the NW Regional ESD office at 503-614-1401.

Senior News

By Karen Miller



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006; just the fact we are in the 2000's seems

pretty amazing and time keeps going on. I hope some of you seniors have included a safe driving course into your agenda with your new year's resolutions! In fact, start the year out right on January 12 and 13 – here at the Vernonia Center is the AARP Safe Driving Class, especially targeted, but not exclusive, to those 50 and up. Only \$10 and NO TESTS!! Call my office to sign up.

We ended the year with a great Senior Bazaar; am still thanking those involved, like Bobby Jo Harmon, who helped donate and organize; also announcing the winner of the quilt that was given to Faith Reynolds by Leola Ruff and donated to the senior center: Leiland Seibert.

Elections were last December 23. For 2006: President Carl Holsey, Vice President Bill James, Secretary Sandy Welch, Treasurer George Gans. Board Members: Larry Bernardi, Jim Coen, Romanna Manusos, Pat Derrick, Dick Rosin, Necia DeWitt, Gail Snethen, Bill Yeo and alternate

Francine Lentz. It is people like these volunteers that keep the center running and available to our community. Volunteers that help in the kitchen and setting tables; thanks Dick Rosin and all others who help here and there. In the thrift shop; Romanna, Pat Lloyd, Marie Due, Shelly Cota, Larry Bernardi, Linda Tellef, Trish Maldonado, and Susie Fudge. Thanks to Sharon Gibson for taking the position of hostess here – she does a great job.

SENIOR PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM is designed to give supportive mentoring to anyone age 60 and over living in Columbia County. Currently we have eight peer counselors who have volunteered to be trained to provide confidential, personal, and supportive mentoring. Call my office if you are interested in being a peer counselor, or know someone that might benefit from support through challenging times; depression, chronic illness, end-of-life concerns, multiple losses, alcohol problems, among other issues.

MEDICARE PART D: Call my office if you need guidance through this maze of information.

We would like to remind the community of the illegal dumping of items like TVs, appliances, mattresses, etc., in our parking lot and would request your help in policing this at any time of day. We will be taking

more serious measures on enforcing this; please call our office and your names will be kept confidential.

Free lunch for the first one who can call me with the name of the full moon for the month of January.

If you know of a senior who would like a visit from the Senior Advocate or has any senior needs and concerns, call our office.

REMEMBER:

- Pastries and bread Wednesday and Saturday a.m.
- Bingo, Mondays at lunch.
- Music with the Golden Oldies on Wednesdays.
- Games on Thursdays.
- Willoughby Hearing every second Friday at 11:00 a.m.
- Sign language class at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays.

INFORMATION NUMBERS

- Senior Advocate...429-9112
- Senior Center.....429-3912
- Transportation.....429-4304

Time to practice singing Cantata

Christmas is over, now it's time for the Vernonia Community Choir to get ready for Easter by practicing for the annual Easter Cantata.

Choir practice will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, at the First Baptist Church on the corner of A Street and Washington Avenue.

All singers are encouraged to join the choir. For more information, call Lynda Cahill at 503-429-1161.

Tell your Valentine how you feel with an ad in **The Independent's** February 2 issue. Call today to order your very affordable ad - 503-429-9410



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