

My Fair Lady honors to Clatskanie

Lydia Arthur, of Clatskanie, was selected, July 18, as My Fair Lady for the 2007 Columbia County Fair.

Princesses are chosen for the My Fair Lady Court from the five Senior Centers in Columbia County.

Princess Tessie Aldrich was Vernonia's able representative.

Additional princesses were Marian Nolin of Rainier, Mary Dahlgren of St. Helens, and Betty Karsten of Scappoose.

The pageant is sponsored by Columbia River PUD, with My Fair Lady chosen during the Columbia County Fair. She will participate in various parades around the county.

What causes most fires?

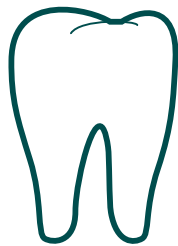
The Oregon Department of Forestry Daily Fire Update for Monday, July 30, 2007, gave the following statistics for this year:

January 1 through July 30 (for the 15.8 million acres of forestlands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry):

- Lightning-caused: 247 fires burned 6,958 acres,
- Human-caused: 434 fires burned 910 acres,
- Total: 681 fires burned 7,868 acres.

These numbers are higher than the 10-year averages.

Emergency care for dental needs



A Mobile Dental Clinic run by Medical Teams International, Inc., will be in Vernonia on Friday, August 10.

Community Action Team will be sponsoring the clinic, which is for emergency dental only.

Call Melissa at 503-369-7566 for more information and prescreening to schedule an appointment.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



What is there left to say after two weeks of the Vernonia hot line.

You know

where you stand, I know where I stand – everyone stands on their own two feet or you hit the pavement. Right? It hurts but we survive if you give life a chance.

The “variety store” is gone.

Now the sidewalk superintendents can start guessing “what” is going in the “hole”. I don't know but I'd like to see a nice “Sit Down Restaurant” come into Vernonia so I could “go out to Dinner” at home. Or, if that isn't possible we dog folks still need a “free range” dog area – fenced in, of course.

What do you do when it's re-run season? The radio plays the same music over and over (not your kind), the news on radio and T.V. is the same day and night; not enlightening nor refreshing. the telephone rings – is it a friend? No – you've just won a \$10,000

dollar shopping spree in New York (oh, WOW) or you can pay all your debts with la, la, la. I have knitted, mended, even cleaned and re-cleaned a room or two, gone visiting, sat in the back yard in the shade, read a couple of books, walked the lake, combed out the dog and cat. I've even walked a mile or two in my own shoes (yours won't fit me), and guess what? Gas just went down 6¢. Maybe I can afford to fill up my car and get out of town for a day if I can find the time. Don't give up, just give in and take a nap. That's what I'm going to do till Jeopardy comes on. Bye.

Take responsibility and don't start fires

While lightning fires have taken the spotlight the last few days, human-caused fires have kept firefighters busy on state and private lands in Oregon.

Nearly 400 abandoned campfires, debris burns, smoking, and equipment use are the types of wildfires caused by careless behaviors.

“Even though we're having a period of cooler weather, we're still responding to a high number of human-caused fires” said Rick Gibson, fire prevention manager for the Oregon Department of Forestry. “Since firefighters are kept busy extinguishing these smaller human-caused fires, our resources are not able to fully focus on the natural fires that we have no control over.”

Mary Ellen Holly, president

and CEO of the Keep Oregon Green Association, said that the number of human-caused fires is higher than any year within the last ten years. “Our focus is to reduce the number of human-caused wildfires, a mission we've had for over 67 years.” People – residents and visitors – must start taking more responsibility for this prevention. Many of the state's forested areas, including private, federal and state lands, are in Restricted Use, which means forest users must check before they go into the forests or perform any operations to

see if their planned activities are allowed.

Campfires are prohibited on all state-protected lands except in designated campgrounds, and debris burning is not allowed except on very few districts where a permit is first required. Equipment use and smoking are also restricted.

When investigators determine that a wildfire is caused from carelessness, the responsible party will be charged for suppression costs. Gibson stated that over 200 of those charges were made and collected in 2006.

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