

Community

In The Service



Kari Anne Budge

Kari Anne Budge has completed U.S. Army basic training and is now taking advanced training in operating large equipment at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Budge is the daughter of John and Angie Budge of Vernonia and Rhonda Roberts Budge of Tillamook. She is the granddaughter of Tom and Judy Budge, and Derl and Diana Roberts.

County Fair board seeks member

A position on the five-person board that oversees the Columbia County Event Complex and the annual Fair & Rodeo in St. Helens will be available at the end of the year. This volunteer position works collaboratively with four other board members to manage the 70 acre property and to oversee the Fair Administrator, who manages the day-to-day operations.

Applications will be accepted through the end of month at either the County Commissioners' office in the Columbia County Courthouse, or at the Event Complex. Candidates must have a genuine interest in the Event Complex and the Columbia County Fair & Rodeo, work well in a team environment, and be willing to serve a three year term. Current board members include Deloris Bellingham of Vernonia, Deb Parmley of Scappoose, Evelyn Hudson of Scappoose, Henry Heimuller of St. Helens and David Thompson Jr. of Clatskanie, whose term expires at the end of the year.

Although the Columbia County Fair generated over

\$74,000 in ticket sales this past year that isn't the only event held at the Columbia County Event Complex. Activities on the grounds happen throughout the year, which helps to support the complex and other local businesses and non-profits in the county.

The complex had 563 rentals last year (not including the fair), which is calculated by the number of activities on the grounds each day of the year, bringing in over 57,000 people. Activities include Little League and Youth Soccer games and practices, stock car races, and the rental of the buildings and grounds for both public and private events such as fundraisers and wedding receptions. Twenty-six organizations used the facility to raise funds that were directly reinvested into the community.

Currently, the Fair Board has negotiated a new contract with the Columbia County Racing Association and final drafts on lease agreements with the St. Helens Little League and Youth Soccer Association are in the works.

Senior News

By Karen Miller
Senior Advocate



There was no Senior News in the last issue, through no fault of The Independent, because the computer containing my last column has probably reached the ocean by now. If you find it washed up on a beach somewhere, call me.

I still can be reached at 503-429-9112, let it ring until my message machine clicks on, then leave your name, number

and a short message. My office is temporarily located at Holce Logging, behind the Mini Mart, Thank you, Randy Holce.

As many of you know, most everything in our senior center was lost in this flood. Our board wants me to pass this information on to you:

"Progress is pending until we meet with the adjuster. The Center hopes to be up and running on a temporary basis AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

One other bit of info. The address I passed on in the last column about sending Christmas cards to soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital is no longer valid. Get on the internet to anysoldier.com and follow their

instructions. I apologize for any inconvenience.

The outpouring of care and help has been incredible during this difficult time. The Senior Center wishes to thank everyone for their support this last year – volunteers, donors and patrons – and remember, a happy new year is on the horizon...we'll be back.

Merry Christmas to all.

INFORMATION NUMBERS

Senior Advocate...429-9112

Senior Center.....429-3912

Transportation.....429-4304

Winter driving guide available online

Each year, motorists and their families become stranded while navigating Oregon's roadways in inclement weather. In an effort to help drivers prepare for the winter driving season, the Washington County Sheriff's Office is promoting the new Oregon Winter Driving Guide.

The guide includes tips for driving in icy or snowy conditions, a checklist of equipment for roadside emergencies and information on Oregon laws that govern the use of tire chains.

The guide is available online at the Sheriff's Office website. It is also available in hard copy at visitor information centers and convention bureaus, Les Schwab Tire Centers, ODOT offices, and a number of other



locations.

Motorists are reminded to frequently check winter road conditions and weather forecasts during their travels. Weather information is available at www.tripcheck.com, and for ongoing road condition updates while traveling, motorists may call 5-1-1.

The Oregon Winter Driving Guide was produced by member-agencies of the Governor's Transportation/Tourism Task

Force. The Oregon Department of Transportation provided safety information, and Travel Oregon designed and produced the piece. Additional production partners are the Oregon Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, the Oregon Lodging Association, Oregon State Police, and the Oregon Travel Information Council. Les Schwab Tire Centers donated funds to cover printing costs.

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