

Community

Early warning system coming

Vernonia Fire District Chief Paul Epler recently spoke with *The Independent* regarding citizens' comments on the need for a better early warning system after the Flood of 2007. Epler was Incident Commander during the first days of the flood and is fully aware of the community's need for a better method of notification during emergencies such as the flood.

Epler is working on an emergency warning system that will include a multi-pronged notification system that is expected to include some combination of sirens, phone trees, door-to-door contact, radio broadcasts and other ideas. He is working on the plan in conjunction with Columbia County 9-1-1, U. S. Geologic Service (USGS) and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Once the system is worked out, information about what

community members can expect will be provided to area residents. Epler says to bear in mind that if the warning system is activated, that will not mean there is time for residents to safeguard their homes, but rather that it is time for residents to evacuate.

Look for more details in future issues of *The Independent*.

Festival group plans meeting

The Vernonia Events and Festivals Committee will be meeting February 22 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to plan for this year's events please come. If you helped last year, please come as well. Call Donna Webb at 503-429-5201 for the location of the meeting.

Senior News

By Karen Miller
Senior Advocate



Things are still progressing along at the Senior Center, for those of you

who are anxiously awaiting our return! Thank you to the folks who painted my office, whoever you are; it looks better now than it did before; so am looking at some pluses to be made out of this all; besides upgrading here and there within the building; everyone has done a great job!

Remember, I can still be reached at 503-429-9112; my office phone is the same (office phone without the office)...call

me for your footcare needs; our next footcare day is February 22.

Membership dues will be gladly accepted. Now I bet some of you are waiting until you can really walk in, in person to see for yourself, but for any of you who would like to send it in: we are still at 446 Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon 97064. And you can bet your high water boots that any donations would be gladly accepted.

We won't be making any announcements to exactly when our reopening will be; whether we can make it by the "wearing of the green" remains to be seen. Also, be reading this column for new donation policies that will be going into effect; making it easier on our volunteers and donations overload here at the center. Thanks

again to one and all for everyone's support.

And I saved the best news till last! Happy 90th Birthday to Etta Russell. Some of us had a lovely time at her very deserving party last Saturday at the Community Church. Certainly many of us will want to know to what Etta attributes her longevity to; some of us might want to follow suit! I'll find out!

Short and sweet...we hope things in your neighborhoods are coming along as well.

Till next time...sunnier days ahead!

INFORMATION NUMBERS

Senior Advocate...429-9112

Senior Center.....429-3912

Transportation.....429-4304

50 Years ago this Month

The February 6, 1958, issue of the *Vernonia Eagle* included the following news story on the front page:

Vernonia's Second Friendship Jamboree was definitely chosen as the name for the celebration to be staged July 4 and 5 at the meeting held last Thursday evening at the West Oregon building. Also, among the things definitely decided was another open house for the Caylite Candle factory.

Many ideas were presented and discussed at the Thursday night meeting, most of which were taken under consideration and left for definite action at a later date. Among ideas put forth were need for rules for the decorating and judging of window displays; methods of handling money arrangements, publicity gimmicks, listing of places for out-of-town people to stay, possible class reunions dur-

ing those days and entertainment that might be featured.

Several organizations placed their request for concessions and space for them. The Eagles want the same concession and location as last year as does the Study club and the Rebekahs voiced their desire to again sponsor a fishpond.

The Do-Si-Do Square dance club has a dance scheduled for July 5 and can make it a drawing card for the Jamboree.

Another meeting will be held at the West Oregon building February 21 at 8 p.m., at which the ideas will be again considered and acted upon and other suggestions entertained. Some other organizations added representatives last week and all those now registered are urged to keep delegates coming and others are asked to send theirs to the next meeting. Also, all individuals who are interested and have ideas to offer are invited to

come.

Plans were made for contacting concession agencies now to secure more kiddy rides this year. Also, the window decorations committee is to set up rules for decorating and judging.

And, playing at the Joy Theatre starting February 7, 1958 was *Islands in the Sun* with Harry Belafonte and James Mason plus *The Black Scorpion* with Anthony Steele.

In The Service

Jodi M. Reynolds

Army Pvt. Jodi M. Reynolds has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet train-

ing, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Reynolds earned distinction as an honor graduate. She is the daughter of Glen and Donna Reynolds of Vernonia and is a 2005 graduate of Vernonia High School.

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