

Community

Free Christmas dinner scheduled

A free annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Vernonia Senior Center on December 25, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. There will be turkey, ham and all the trimmings, as well as dessert and a beverage.

In the spirit of Christmas,

anyone – in need or just wishing to share a Christmas meal with others – may attend. There is no charge and gratuities are discouraged. This dinner is sponsored by Friends of Vernonia, Bill James and family.

50 Years Ago This Month

The December 11, 1958, issue of the *Vernonia Eagle* included the following news story on the front page:

Better sign marking for highway 47 was indicated last week by the Oregon state highway department men, Supervisor Shough and Lyle Pearson. Their trips here came about because of a letter written by the chamber of commerce seeking better designation signs in the area.

Shough agreed that there would be the addition of the name, Vernonia on the No. 202 junction near Astoria and an advance warning on highway 47 near Apiary junction to indicate the direction to Rainier.

He recommended writing the state-city relations committee of the highway department to ask that state maps show a black-topped road between Apiary and Rainier instead of gravel.

Chamber President Guy Thomas told the board members at their meeting Monday of a letter received from Rino Koski of the fish and game commission which itemized plants of fish within a 10-mile radius of Vernonia. He listed: 315 nine-inch and 1885 ten-inch trout during May in Rock creek and 3002 nine-inch trout June 18 of this year.

Bill Wilson reported that the Vernonia advertising stamps were going over very well and reminded folks to use them on their Christmas cards and parcels going out of town. They are available at the various merchants and at the chamber office for 5¢ per sheet for 14 stamps.

Also in the December 11 issue, page 6, under the headline Legend Surrounds Christmas Trees was this article:

The trimmed Christmas tree, as we know it today, is little more than a century and a half old, yet

legends trace the origin of the tree back to earliest times.

One legend concerns an early Christmas missionary, St. Wilfred, who once came upon a band of Druids preparing to make a human sacrifice under a large oak.

According to the story, St. Wilfred had the tree cut down and almost immediately, a young fir tree sprang up in its place. The missionary seized the evidence and made the fir tree a symbol of new faith and thereafter the Druids set this symbol of immortality in the halls of their lodges at Christmas time, surrounding it with feasting and laughter and love.

There is also the story of the faithful pine which sheltered the holy family during the flight to Egypt. With Herod's soldiers in pursuit, it was still necessary that Mary rest awhile so they sought shelter in the low trunk of a huge fir tree. As the soldiers approached, the tree bent its branches to conceal the huddled little group. When the danger had passed the baby Jesus blessed the old tree. Today, if you cut a pine cone lengthwise at Christmas time, you can still see the imprint of His little hand.

Another legend holds that the first Christmas tree was really an apple tree. And, although the fir tree has long since replaced its predecessor for Christmas use, the tinsel baubles we used on the tree are said representative of the fruit which for the early Christmas symbolized the fall of man in the Garden of Eden and his reclamation by the birth of the Saviour.

Vernonian Soma earns degree

Marissa Abra Soma, of Vernonia, graduated from Pacific University in August with a Master of Arts degree in Teaching.

Senior News

By Karen Miller, Senior Advocate
Community Action Team



This my last senior news... of 2008 that is. I would like to take this opportunity

to thank *The INDEPENDENT* for another year of allowing me to educate the public with Community Action Team's programs for seniors, and senior issues on a myriad of topics, and news from the Senior Center. I would like to thank Rocky Johnson, Executive Director of Community Action Team for his organizational skills and leadership with Community Action Team, for whom I have the privilege to work, and my supervisors, Ken Johnson and Juliann Davis, and co-workers, with whom I couldn't have a more pleasant and satisfying experience.

Also thank you to the Vernonia Senior Center and to everyone I work with here, now and in the past. These past

years have been a source of inspiration to me, I never cease to be amazed, encouraged and inspired working with and constantly touching the lives of old and new senior friends.

All December birthdays will be celebrated on December 19. If you have a December birthday, come in for cake and ice cream.

On the docket for next year: Our Senior Police Academy; call my office to sign up for this fun, informative class with Chief Mike Kay at 503-429-9112.

We would be delighted to have you as a member of the Vernonia Senior Center. Only \$10 will sign you up. Thanks for everyone's support and patronage.

A scrabble tournament? Yes, we will have one!

I will be making plans for the next AARP Safe Driving class here at the Vernonia Center during the first few months of the new year. Call my office to sign up.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER will be held here at the center from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. This is a free dinner for anyone so de-

siring, no age restrictions. Call 503-429-2072 for further information.

The Center will be closed Christmas Day (except for the dinner) and the day after. We WILL BE OPEN the day after New Year's Day.

From the thrift shop: ALL merchandise will be half off from December 15 to the 31. Good buys at good prices!

On your list of New Year Resolutions: Sign up for the next AARP Safe Driving Class, quit smoking, watch your alcohol intake, eat more fruit and veggies, etc., etc., AND...increase your fun and food intake at the Vernonia Senior Center!! See you more often, we hope, in 2009!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year from all of us at 446 Bridge Street.

INFORMATION NUMBERS

Senior Advocate...429-9112

Senior Center.....429-3912

Transportation.....429-4304

Christmas Eve service slated

Vernonia Community Church invites everyone to come enjoy their Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions, call Pastor Grant at 503-429-7690.

2009 Jamboree meeting on Jan. 7

The next Jamboree meeting will be January 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia City Hall. On the agenda is nomination of officers for 2008.

If you are interested in help-

ing, or if you have an event that you want included in the 2008 Jamboree, the Jamboree Committee asks that you attend this meeting.

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