

## Library talk on Chinese Diaspora

The Chinese Diaspora in the Americas: The First "Illegal Aliens" is the title of the next presentation at the Vernonia Library, on Thursday, March 12, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese arrived in the U.S. in the mid-nineteenth century to work on railroads and sugar plantations. Elliott Young, Associate Professor of History at

Lewis & Clark College will discuss the journey of the Chinese once they were here and the way they were treated by the government here.

There will be refreshments after the discussion. This presentation is brought to you by the Vernonia Library, the Friends of the Library and funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

## Sign-up for Safe Driving Class

An AARP Safe Driving Class will be held at the Vernonia Senior Center on March 30 and 31, starting at 12:45 p.m. The cost is \$12 for members of the Center and \$14 for non-members.

The class provides informa-

tion on rules of the road, how to operate a vehicle safely, handling a vehicle in a crisis situation and how to overcome age-related reaction time decreases.

For more information, or to sign-up for the class, call Karen at 503-429-9112.

## Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



I know. I understand. It is the beginning of a new year. A new Presi-

dent and all State, County and City budgets are being shuffled and cut. But, now my phone is run over by other cities in my county calling me for funds to help with their local costs. I know we trade fire and police protection and well we should, it is necessary. It is mid-winter (and yes all of us on S.S. got an

increase in our living wage) but personally food has gone up, along with heat, power and all medical expenses. Doesn't anyone think of how it makes a person feel when they "call" and ask, "Can't you give even \$3.00?"

Something else on my mind – all of these raised homes. All of those steep steps. Have none of the builders or possibly the homeowners ever heard of a "California Step"? The step is 18" wide (not 12") and 4-1/2" to 5" rise (to the next step). Yes, the length of steps is longer but an easier incline for those with bad knees, backs, legs and for toting stuff up and down. I don't even see any with what I call a

"porch step" halfway up. I'd never make it up or down those I've seen. All folks get old, or won't there be any old folks living here in years to come?

Now to the happy side of life. If you stayed away from "Golden Oldies" Wednesday at the Senior Center – your loss. There were three "dropped by to join in making music" fellows; Bob, Everest and Larry. We hadn't seen them in about a year. They added songs and tunes some of us had forgotten – Good to bring back Old Memories. Come back soon or of-tener if you can.

It was also good to see several of our own off the sick list and back with us.

## 20 Years Ago This Month

The March 30, 1989, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on page 3:

In a magnanimous gesture last week, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, Smith-Christensen Post #3763, signed over the deed to the VFW Hall on Bridge Street to the Vernonia Senior Citizens.

For one dollar!

Under terms of the sale, the VFW reserved the right to use the facility one night and two weekends a month in the event that the now dormant VFW Post should be reactivated.

The seniors have leased the building for a nominal amount for many years, and wanted to expand, but without holding the title they couldn't apply for federal funding for maintenance, remodeling or expansion.

Though that barrier has now been removed, another is yet to be overcome. According to member Henry Anderegg, the property encroaches by about seven and a half feet on the MiniMart property west of the Center. When that glitch is resolved, the seniors will be able to work on their plans for expansion.

Also in the March 30, 1989, issue of *The Independent* was this news story on page 24:

The Vernonia City Council approved an ordinance allowing the placement of manufactured homes in residential areas of the city, following a pub-

lic hearing with people speaking both for and against the proposal.

Those who favored the ordinance felt it would make it easier for middle and lower income people to own a home, and would put some under-utilized properties back on the tax roll.

Opponents felt the structures were substandard, would rapidly deteriorate, and shouldn't be allowed in the city.

City attorney Tom Kohl explained that the ordinance can

only regulate the type of manufactured homes allowed, site preparation requirements, and similar details, because state law prohibits the exclusion of manufactured homes in residential areas.

The ordinance does not allow the use of mobile homes in the city, but only manufactured homes that meet federal standards set in 1974.

The ordinance was prepared by the planning commission after many months of study.

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## Wauna Federal Credit Union's 42nd Annual Meeting

**Where:**

Westport Church at 49246 Hwy 30, Westport

**When:**

Saturday, March 7, 2009  
Social 2pm, Meeting 3pm  
no charge to attend the meeting

**Meal Tickets:**

Limited to 200 Adult Tickets - \$5 each  
30 Children Tickets (10 and under) - \$1  
Hurry - First Come, First Serve!  
All tickets sold at the door will be \$10 each.

Join us for this celebration of great food, many prizes, a credit union update and elections for our Board of Directors!



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