

Carr crowned 2011 Miss Oregon Rodeo

Mackenzie Carr of Vernonia was crowned Miss Rodeo Oregon 2011 on March 5th in the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center. In front of over 200 guests, family and friends, the 20 year-old cowgirl graciously accepted the crown from Ashley Ziegler, the 2010 state titleholder. During her moving farewell speech, Zeigler shared memories of her travels, presented a slideshow collection of photographs, and thanked all those who sponsored and helped her with the successful year, highlighted by first place in the Portland Grand Floral Parade, and placing top ten in the Miss Rodeo America pageant.

The evening began with music by the Concrete Cowboys band, followed by dinner, fundraising auctions, and introductions of visiting rodeo Royalty. Rodeo Announcer Scott Allen was the emcee for the event. Special guest tribal princesses performed a traditional "Blanket Dance" as a send-off for Carr.

Miss Rodeo Oregon will travel over 30,000 miles this year promoting the sport of rodeo and representing the State of Oregon at PRCA rodeos, parades, fundraisers, school visits, other rodeo court coronations and pageants, the Columbia River Circuit Finals and, at the end of the year, the Miss Rodeo America Pageant held in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mackenzie Carr is the daughter of Alan and Barb Carr of Vernonia, Oregon. She grew

up on a small farm in a rural timber community an hour from the Oregon coast. Mackenzie is a 2008 graduate and Valedictorian of Vernonia High School, as well as a nine year member of Columbia County Horse 4-H. Her involvement with the Columbia County Fair and Rodeo continued as Carr served as a 2007 Columbia County Fair and Rodeo Princess, and Queen in 2008. In 2009, she went on to represent the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association as Miss NPRA. In July 2010, Mackenzie was awarded the prestigious title of Miss Rodeo Oregon. In addition to

winning the title, she earned the awards for Appearance, Speech, Knowledge, Horsemanship, Personality, and Photogenic. In her spare time she enjoys riding her horses, giving riding lessons to children, and spending time in the great outdoors. Mackenzie attended Oregon State University for two years studying Civil Engineering, and will continue working toward an Architectural degree, with a minor in Speech Communications. She hopes to focus on interior architecture and commercial building design.

For more information visit www.missrodeooregon.com.



Mackenzie Carr shown being crowned Miss Rodeo Oregon. Photo provided courtesy of Miss Rodeo Oregon Pageant, Inc. and Creekside Studios.

Next Library presentation, Mar. 31

The Voters Have Spoken: Oregon's Controversial Ballot Initiative is the topic of a conversation to be held Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at the Vernonia Public Library.

Over the past century, Oregon has had more statewide, citizen-generated ballot measures than any other state. As a result, "Direct Democracy" has transformed the state's political and social landscape.

Dr. Jackson B. Miller, an Associate Professor of Communications Arts at Linfield College, will offer a program of information and lead a discussion on

the topic. The discussion will focus on taxes, Marijuana control and Physician-assisted suicide.

The discussion is presented and made possible by The Oregon Humanities Conversation Project, with help from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Oregon Cultural Trust and individual contributions.

Parenting Now!

Parenting Now! is the name of a parenting education program that will be held at Ver-

nonia Head Start Center, 500 California Ave., starting Monday, March 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There is a nominal fee based on a sliding scale. Included will be food, fun and door prizes.

The program is for anyone soon to be a parent or already a parent of children 8-years-old or younger. Child Care is provided upon request at the time of registration. Space is limited, call 1-503-556-3736 to register.

Presented by Child & Family Development Parenting Education Programs, Community Action Team, Inc., this is a group based positive education program.

Senior Center News

If you have been waiting for the free hearing checks to resume, they may be starting now that the weather allows easier travel. Call Rosie McCoy for information.

Free blood pressure checks are available at the center on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon. Don't skip this simple, but important, health check.

The Senior Center's Thrift Shop will be one of the thriftiest thrift shops around from Monday, April 4, through Friday, April 8, when everything will be 1/2 price! The shop is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wheelchairs are available for rent, and unused canes needed. Call Pauline Coffman for more information.

The midday meal – whether you call it lunch or dinner depends on where you (or your parents) grew up – is served Monday through Friday at noon. A \$4.00 donation is suggested for those 60 and older, and \$5.00 for those under 60. If you want lunch to go, call in advance and place your order; it's only \$5.00.

Diners also enjoy free ice cream on the last Wednesday of each month, courtesy of Wauna Federal Credit Union.

Meals on Wheels are available for those who are home-bound. Call Rosie McCoy, and she will explain how to put this great service to work.

Birthdays are celebrated at lunch on the last Friday of each month, so members whose birthdays are in March will be in the spotlight on March 25.

Breakfast is available Fridays at the Senior Center, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at \$3.50 per person, regardless of age. Maple bars, made fresh daily, are \$1.00 each. If you want maple bars for a gathering of any kind, call 503-429-3912 a day or two ahead and place your order.

The 5 Area Lunch will be at the St. Helens Senior Center on March 28. This is a good destination to start getting out of our winter stay-at-home doldrums.

Pinochle on Fridays from 1:00 p.m. 'til the games are over, and needle work, including quilting, on Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to closing.

Vernonia Senior Citizens Center: 446 Bridge Street

Senior Information Assistance Representative

Rosie McCoy: Mon-Wed-Fri

Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thrift Shop Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Phone: 503-429-3912

FREE **Pioneer Baptist Fellowship**
Presents
A Vernonia Community
Free Fishing Derby 

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday March 26th
Vernonia Lake

Love Fishing? **Prize for the Biggest Fish**
Bring Your Fishing License & Gear For a Fun time! **Random Drawings**
Fishing Gear as Prizes
Free Admission & Refreshments

Everyone's Invited
Ages 14 and above need fishing license