

Crown Zellerbach Trail is a Gem *CZ Trail is now open for use*

By Scott Laird

Columbia County has a new jewel in its crown.

The Crown Zellerbach Trail, spanning the twenty miles from Scappoose to Vernonia is open and ready for use this summer. Although Columbia County has not held an of-

project from the beginning. "This was one of the first things I initiated when I took office sixteen years ago and I am really pleased to see it opened."

The trail is mostly hard pack, with some areas of gravel and portions towards the Scappoose end that are paved. "My hope is that by maintaining the surface as it is, we



Trailhead at Highway 30 in Scappoose.

ficial opening ceremony, the trail is accessible to users from end to end.

Stretching from Chapman's Landing on the Columbia River to the outskirts of Vernonia, the CZ Trail, as it is known, is open for use by all non-motorized traffic, including bikes, horses and hikers.

The trail gives local users and visitors a new opportunity to experience the beauty and history of Columbia County and could become an outdoor recreation draw and economic stimulus for the region.

"This is very exciting," says Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde, who has been a proponent and champion of the

can allow some types of cycling to take place and fully capture the equestrian users and of course the hikers," says Glen Crinklaw, Assistant Public Works Director for Columbia County who oversees the county Parks Department.

The trail follows logging roads and abandoned rail lines and is accessible at several locations along Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy. The trail starts (or ends) at the top of Knott Street, off Highway 47, north of Vernonia.

Vernonia now becomes a central hub for trail users. CZ Trail users can connect with the Banks-Vernonia State Linear Trail,

continued on page 10

Community Pride + School Spirit = \$10,000 Success!

By Jill Hult

The organizers, school district, community, and guests should all be proud of themselves for the effort they put forth for the Last Chance School Dance event held on June 23, 2012.

many is still going strong as the event highlighted superbly.

A couple of special guests who attended the event were Senator Betsy Johnson and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. Congresswoman Bonamici gave a short speech



Photos courtesy of Jill Hult.

The event raised almost \$10,000 for the Vernonia Education Foundation.

The entire school grounds were open to the public at 4:00 PM for touring, the dinner and live auction started at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria followed by a dance in the Washington Grade School gym at 7:00 PM. The event also featured a silent auction throughout the night. Community members both new and old joined in the celebration of their community's dedication to honor the past and excel into the future with bold determination. An accomplishment that has taken the time, money, and efforts of

telling those in attendance that they should be very proud of themselves as a community for their accomplishments and that she would be here for the grand opening of the new school. Superintendent, Dr. Ken Cox spoke about improving school education and thanked the government representatives and all those involved in making this endeavor achievable including the community for passing the school bond. He stated there would be an opportunity to volunteer and help move items up to the new school on July 10, 2012. He gave an update on the demolition timeline

continued on page 9

inside



12
water
fun



13
senior
stars



19
4th
of july

Columbia County Fair: A Tradition to Treasure

It's time once again to head over to St. Helens for the 97th annual Columbia County Fair and Rodeo.

The Fair will be held from July 18—22. Opening ceremonies will be held at 12:00 PM on Wednesday July 18. The Rodeo takes place on Friday and Saturday, July 20-21.

This year the Fair will celebrate tradition with all the usual activities including the carnival and midway, 4-H exhibits and livestock showmanship, live music and entertainment and much more.

Wednesday is Senior Day with free admission all day for all seniors sixty and over. The "My Fair Lady" pageant, which honors senior women for their outstanding service in their community, will be held at 1:00 PM. Representing the Vernonia Senior Center this year is Lilja "Tobie" Finzel. Stock car races will also be held Wednesday evening.

Thursday is Kids Day with



Above: Nicole Glass at last year's fair with her prize winning steer.



free admission to the Fair for all kids seventeen and under until 3:00 PM. Thursday features annual favorites like the Teddy Bear Picnic, the Columbia County Talent Show, and the Junior Rodeo. Columbia Kids Stand will perform Thursday afternoon.

Friday and Saturday the Rodeo takes the stage. The Columbia County Rodeo Court pageant will be held on Saturday. Columbia County hosts one of the biggest NPRA rodeos, so make sure to check it out both Friday and Saturday evenings. After all the action, kick up your heels both nights at the "Dancin' in the Dirt" concert with music provided by Back Stage Pass.

Sunday is half price admission all day. Don't miss the Chili Cookoff and the Duck/Geese Call Contest.

Live entertainment will be ongoing all week, with featured musical performers Amanda Ply, Brady

continued on page 16