

The INDEPENDENT

Serving the upper Nehalem River valley. Published monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, by Public Opinion Laboratory Ltd., 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064, as a free newspaper. All material protected under U.S. Copyright laws. Editors and Publishers, Dirk & Noni Andersen, (503) 429-9410

Opinion

Park development is start of new era

With the installation of a pedestrian bridge over Highway 47, development of the Banks-Vernonia Linear Park is demonstrably underway.

Actually, there has been work on the trail for nearly a year, but surveying, brushing and checking the condition of bridges and culverts just doesn't have the visual impact that a 90 foot long overpass has.

The many volunteers who worked hard to get approval of the first new state park in 20 years have every reason to start getting excited about it.

The linear park has already brought some changes to the area - it's certainly a factor in the increased property sales the community has been enjoying. There will be more changes, too. One of them will be an improved Hwy. 47 because more people will be using it and the state will make improvements to accommodate the increased traffic.

Another spin-off is the funding that's been made available for improvements at Vernonia Lake. The Oregon Tourism Alliance wouldn't authorize those expenditures previously, but once the state park became a reality, the improvements made a lot of sense.

We are aware that some people are still trying to block the park. The latest ploy has been to spread a rumor that there was a shooting and double murder on the trail. Well...it just isn't so, folks. That was just another attempt to create opposition to the park, and it was a pretty feeble attempt. Anybody who wants to check a rumor of that sort has only to call the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The park has all of the official approvals it needs and it will be developed. The official opening is projected to be in September and we're quite certain the Parks Department will meet that time line.

At this point objections are futile. Park opponents who dealt objectively with the state are satisfied with the land swaps they negotiated, and some of them even sold portions of their property to the state to improve the alignment of the park.

Working together, we can make this a really positive experience. We will be the host community for Oregon's first new state park in twenty years. It's time to "accent the positive and eliminate the negative"...besides, that's a lot more fun than spreading silly rumors.

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
Vernonia City Librarian

In conjunction with Vernonia's Centennial celebration next year, but as an ongoing project, the library is creating a special interest section devoted to the history of our local logging and timber industry. In addition to acquiring any available books on the subject, we will be compiling pictures, newspaper articles, reminiscences of people who would be willing to share their recollections, and any other materials or information that we can gather on the subject. We are now in the beginning stages of this project and are asking for help with further suggestions, materials, memories or information that you would be willing to contribute. One specific item we are seeking is a video tape of "The Ring of Fire." Please contact the library if you can help in any way. This is a project for and about our community and we hope there is much interest and involvement in

its compilation and future use.

Another new undertaking in the library is the acquisition we have recently made of the audio tapes of four books. We have "California Gold" by John Jakes, "I Want to Grow Hair, I Want to Grow Old, I Want to Go to Boise" by Erma Bombeck, "Silent Partner" by Jonathan Kellerman, and "It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It" by Robert Fulgham. They are now available for your use and comments.

Remember that young people can earn Summer Reading certificates for each ten books read and a special prize will be given to the child reading the most books before September 15. A special thank you to Sarah Lynch for giving the library a nice assortment of childrens' books in time for summer reading.

Library Hours: Monday and Friday 1-5 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Preschool Story Time is every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

Letters to the Editor

Wonderful people

To the Editor:

Janelle and I want to thank the people of Vernonia and the Nehalem Valley for their outpouring of love. The support, encouragement and understanding we have received the last few months has made coping with the problems associated with ALS much easier (Your daily prayers, thoughts, cards and calls have gone a long way in soothing our frustration and fears.). We feel extremely blessed to be a part of this community.

Your generosity through contributions has helped to alleviate our most urgent financial needs. We don't want to single out individuals because there are just too many, but we do want to thank several groups: The Christian community and their churches for the on-going prayers and fund raisers, our fellow loggers and their families for their unselfish sacrifice of time, energy and sweat; and the youth of Vernonia who, through various endeavors, contributed \$500 to our cause.

Your efforts have provided us with a 1990 Ford van equipped with a wheelchair lift, a stairway lift, a wheelchair ramp, many household items that make physically

demanding chores easier, and the courage to go when we want to give up.

What is most important to us? The fact that you all care and want to help; the realization that this situation has bonded the community together; the fact that we can say we are a part, and always will be, of such a loving group of people.

David & Janelle Serafin
Great volunteers

To the Editor:

With a busy summer coming and all the time spent on everyday events, it is nice to have such great people as the volunteers that give the extra time to help make Vernonia such a wonderful place.

The Vernonia Volunteer Fire Department and the Vernonia Ambulance Association give hours and hours every month to help save lives and property and deserve a very big thank you from all of the people they serve.

The Vernonia Police Department has several very good reserves that help fill in the spaces when needed and are a very valuable asset to an understaffed force.

Volunteer groups like the Ridge Riders and the Vernonia Youth Summer Baseball Association work very hard

every year to improve Anderson and Spencer Parks and give youth some summer activities.

Thank you to Cavenham Forest Industries for providing the pole for the swimming pool and Rick Gwin and the Serafin Sale Loggers for getting it out of the brush. Gene Weller hauled the 80 foot pole down to the swimming hole and did an amazing job of getting it through our tight little streets, thanks a bunch, Gene.

I wish I could thank all of the individuals who give parts of their lives to help make Vernonia such a fantastic place to live. The new decade is going to be filled with lots of exciting events and growth and the community will need the ideas and dreams of all of you. It is a privilege to be involved with all of you as your mayor.

Thank you.

Scott Sword, Mayor
City of Vernonia
Help is appreciated

To the Editor:

The Nehalem Valley Timber Coalition would like to thank the following for their assistance with the formation of the coalition and for help in making our activities a success:

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