

Letters

Had a great time at kids fishing derby

To the Editor:

The fish derby went off well during the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree this year. We cut the fishing time from two hours to one hour, which made a lot of moms and dads happy. We had 88 kids fishing and 180 fish caught. Many prizes were given and we all had a great time.

A big thanks to our sponsors, Chuck Cradit of Bridge St. Bait & Tackle, Weller and Sons Trucking, Randy and Sharon Parrow and *The Independent*.

Also a big thanks to Bob Scroggins, Chuck Cradit, Don Doan, Dennis Nelson, Dee Dee Webb, Dale Webb and Bill Yeo, for help with signing up the kids, counting and measuring the fish and giving out the prizes.

We also had a short auction.

Don Webb

Fish Derby Chair

Nehalem Valley Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

Thanks for help from Jamboree events

Dear Cares Supporters:

Vernonia Cares Food Bank was the recipient of many benefits over Jamboree weekend. The food bank received food items and money and generally many words of support were spoken, too. Thank you, one and all, for showing that Vernonia Cares (and many people who reside outside of Vernonia, too)!

I will try to highlight some of the generous donors over Jamboree. Please forgive me if I miss someone! Friday evening the St. Helens Synchro Fire Swim Team presented a wonderful water show and donated all proceeds to the food bank. Thank you, business sponsors, and also Cedar Ridge for hosting this event. Special thanks to the Mike Hayes family, especially Alix Hayes, who coordinated this entire event. As the food bank director, the fact that this event is entirely planned and carried out by the Hayes family and St. Helens Synchro Fire, is so appreciated. Thanks, too, to the attendees who brought canned food and also donated cash for the food bank.

If you have not attended this event, which happens on the Friday night of Jamboree,

you're missing a truly remarkable presentation. These swimmers perform their entire routine without ever touching the bottom of the pool. Try it sometime and you'll understand a little better what extreme physical conditioning it requires. This team competes well, nationally and internationally, in their sport.

Jamboree Saturday included the Dare to Care 5K Fun Run/Walk. We had many generous business sponsors who helped fund this event and also provide raffle prizes. Of course it required the participants to succeed, too. The Run/Walk wouldn't have happened at all without the volunteers who planned and carried out the event. This year we had two co-chairs who stepped forward: Tina Atkinson and Tami Goodman. Monty, Jill, and Caitlyn Wiseman all assisted greatly, too. Registrars included Marge Dunay, Mary Lou Beach, Jacqueline Ramsay, and Josette Mitchell. On-site volunteers included Debby VanZant, Mathea Monnin, and Samantha Johnson. There were many others (including the Welch family) who stepped in to do whatever was needed, too. Thank you, everyone!

Vernonia Cares also received donations from the chain saw carver, Marvin Howard; from the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Club; Rose City Motorcycle Club; and many others. Thank you! If I've missed acknowledging you by name, please forgive me, but know your gift is greatly appreciated.

Personally, I truly do feel I live in the "best little town in America." Vernonia, and Vernonia supporters, are a unique community of people who are willing to step forward and lend assistance to the needy. I remember the spirit of generosity and assistance that came forward during the flood. That dramatic incident galvanized Vernonians, and many others, into action.

As you can see by the events listed above, that spirit of community involvement didn't end with the flood. Many of those who helped Vernonia Cares Food Bank this weekend didn't live here in 1996, or have never lived here, but demonstrate their willingness to lend a hand where needed. That is what makes this community, and all of America, a wonderful

place to live. We may have problems and challenges, but when people roll up their shirt-sleeves and work together, it's unbelievable what good things can be accomplished.

The assistance to the food bank at this time is greatly appreciated and needed. Our goal continues to be to assist households, once a month, in and around Vernonia with three days worth of emergency groceries. In July, Vernonia Cares served over 350 people. That's a lot of groceries! Those groceries were available due to the generosity of our donors. Cares can dispense only the food you provide. We truly are, as I've said before, your hand extended to the hungry.

Care's clients include children, seniors, the disabled, and single parents. We've seen an increasing number of new households—people who have never needed the food bank before. Many people are earnestly looking for work, having been laid off from previous employment, and now their unemployment benefits are running out. I am so thankful that we have groceries available for these people. If you are among those who could benefit from some emergency groceries, please come in. The registration process takes 10-15 minutes, and requires a proof of address. Names are kept confidential. The income guidelines are set by the USDA at 185% of the federal poverty level. Please call if you have questions.

Vernonia Cares is a non-profit organization. Your gifts are tax deductible. Beyond that, when you give to the food bank you should feel that you are doing a truly wonderful thing. Even small financial donations are appreciated. We can purchase food through the Oregon Food Bank at seven to fourteen cents per pound. Financial gifts also, literally, keep our doors open. Care's pays rent and utilities just like you do, including electricity for seven freezers and refrigerators. Financial donations can be sent to Vernonia Cares at P.O. Box 126, Vernonia, OR 97064. Food donations can be brought Tuesday or Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to the American Legion Hall, 627 Adams Avenue. If those hours are not convenient for you, call the food bank at 503-429-1414 and we'll make other arrange-

ments.

I wish to commend those faithful volunteers who come in to assist us. They box food orders, stock shelves, repackage food, unload freight, deliver orders to those without transportation, and do whatever it takes to keep Care's doors open. Our main pantry volunteer, Debby VanZant, is one of the hardest working people I've ever seen. I know she would be glad to have the help of others, too. Another volunteer, Mathea Monnin, helps every Tuesday and is a marvelous representative of our younger generation. Marge Dunay, one of the original leaders of the Vernonia Cares Food Bank, comes in to complete hours of record keeping for our statistics. (She delights in finding numerical mistakes I might, on occasion, make!) A variety of skills are utilized at the food bank. Please call or come by if you can help, even if it's one hour a week.

Volunteerism is alive and well in America, as Vernonia Cares Food Bank demonstrates. There's always a need for more workers. Becoming involved will help you feel better about yourself and help many others at the same time. Try it—you'll be glad you did! You can be among those who demonstrate that Vernonia Cares!

Gratefully,

**Sandy Welch, Director
Vernonia Cares Food Bank**

Winners of Cemetery Beautification raffle

To the Editor:

The two winners of the cemetery's benefit raffle were Dawn Carr and Carol Senn, both of Vernonia. Winning names were drawn at the Jamboree Logging show. Thanks to all who bought tickets or donated to make a successful event. A special thanks to US Bank and Sentry Market for use of selling space.

**Vernonia Cemetery
Beautification Committee**

Progress at Vernonia Pioneer Museum

To the Editor:

It has been a busy place at the museum, with work days both inside and outside.

Thank you to Lee Enneberg and Don Webb for hanging our

new sign on the front of the building.

We have had volunteers sign up to sit at the museum, but could always use more.

Thank you to Darlene Parrow for trimming the hedge before Jamboree.

A thank you, also, to my grandson, Kyle Eckland, for raking the lawn and carrying boxes upstairs at the museum.

Becoming a member is a way for you to help support the museum. Our membership money remains at the museum to help with expenses.

We are open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. — so if you would like to volunteer, please call Enid Parrow at 503-429-8134.

One of our projects now is to get brochures made to send to other museums. Another project that is underway is having negatives made of our pictures in order to preserve our history for future generations.

Thank you also to the county for our computer.

We have had people ask about pictures of the 1996 flood. We are putting together an album of pictures. If you have a picture or pictures to donate for the album, please bring them to the museum or mail them to Vernonia Pioneer Museum, Box 26, Vernonia, OR 97064. We will use as many as we can.

An invitation to you to stop in and see what's happening. We are working hard to make our museum a place to be proud of and an asset to our town.

**Enid Parrow
Museum President**

Change 47J schools to military academies?

To the Editor:

I was relieved after reading the last issue of the paper to see that my husband and I can finally take that extended vacation and not worry about the kids. They'll be under the watchful eye of the School District. Apparently, the district, the police, coaches and whoever the district deems as a trustworthy accuser are taking over the parental role.

I also appreciated having the important points of the article underlined for me so I wouldn't miss just how important they were.

Take a good look at what's
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