

Letters

Jamboree will be as good as you make it

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who helped during the Jamboree.

As president of the Jamboree Committee, I'd like to give recognition to the committee members who helped make this year's Jamboree a success. I apologize now for anyone I may have missed. The Committee members are: Glen Purvee-Vendors, Donna Webb and Enid Parrow-Waste Management, Katie Poetter-Advertising, Christina Purvee-Finance, Bert Tschache-Entertainment, Robb Wilson and Sharon Parrow-Parade, and Shelley Clines-Children's Games. Each of these individuals unselfishly gave of their time to help coordinate and execute the Jamboree, so that you and your families could enjoy it. I would also like to thank the Event Coordinators and their helpers - who I can't name because I don't know them all - from the Logging Show, Horse Show, Car Show, Softball Tourney, Worship Service, Synchro Swimming, Teen Dance, and Fishing Derby. A special thank you to Noni Andersen of *The Independent* for getting all of my last minute press releases in the paper.

I normally do not voice my opinion in this manner, however each of the Jamboree Committee members worked very hard to do the best they could in each of their areas and they deserve to be praised for their efforts, not publicly berated with insinuations that there needs to be a few other things to do, or that this year's Jamboree was a failure! Therefore, I would like to comment on a couple of concerns I have about the Jamboree.

First, in the September 4 issue of *The Independent*, the Smith Family and Friends wrote in their letter to the editor, "Perhaps a few other things to do that weekend would help," and "There weren't even any kids games this year. What a shame!" In defense of the Jamboree Committee and especially Shelly Clines (out of the goodness of her heart she agreed at the last minute to help because no one else would step up to do the Kids Games), for the kids there were the Fishing Derby, the Parade, a 5K Fun Run/Walk, Teen Dance, and Kids Games at the

swimming pool (also, there were at least two booths with kids games). For the adults, there were, in addition to the above mentioned events, the Alternative Stage, Softball Tournament, Black Powder Rendezvous, Synchronized Swimming Demonstration, Library Book Sale, Vernonia Grange Elvis Tribute, local bands performing live music, Pastoral Association Worship Service with contemporary Christian music, Alternative Stage Golf Tourney, Vernonia Ridge Riders Horse Gaming Show, and the Logging Show. Now, if you feel this isn't enough to keep you occupied over the weekend, then get involved and help us plan and execute more events next year!

The second issue I'd like to address is, WE NEED YOUR HELP. Starting in January, every 2nd Thursday, we meet at 7:00 p.m. at the WGS Library to start planning the next Jamboree. Every year in our press releases, we ask for more community involvement and repeatedly say something along the lines of, "if you have some new ideas or would like to help coordinate a Jamboree event, please plan to attend!" So, to The Smith Family and Friends and anyone else who believes there need to be "a few other things to do" and "kids games" we again extend an invitation to each of you. Come on down and get involved, or the shame will truly lie with you!

Sincerely,
Randy Parrow, President
Vernonia Jamboree
Committee

Chief actions bring unwarranted disgrace

To the Editor:

No Second Chance!

Regarding the recent brouhaha concerning Police Chief Cahill's actions during the Friendship Jamboree, I would like to urge that he be fired or forced to resign for several reasons.

First, it is abundantly clear from his actions that he does not understand the people of this community. Unlike "city folk," we do not need a Big Brother/Nanny to micromanage our personal affairs.

Also, there was absolutely no reason for the disgusting show of force displayed. This is not some inner city ghetto where we loot, riot and burn as

a form of entertainment. There has never been any appreciable trouble at the Jamboree, at least none that I've heard of or seen.

Why, then, did Chief Cahill "call in the Marines?" The only reasons I can discern are that he disrespects the people of this community and fears them. And it doesn't take a genius to realize that an armed, scared person is the most dangerous creature there is. Increasingly, there is an "Us versus Them" mentality in many police departments, but this is usually found in urban high crime areas. I don't think Vernonia qualifies.

The apparent blatant show of favoritism shown regarding the beer garden situation was probably illegal and, worse, unethical.

I was under the impression that one of the reasons we had a police force was to protect us from thugs and bullies. Where do we turn when the police become the thugs and bullies? Perhaps we should turn to the folks who hired him, the city council and mayor. It seems, however, that they are not much interested in rectifying the situation. This is somewhat understandable as they spent much time and effort in the search for a police chief, only to discover that they had failed miserably to choose a suitable person. Everyone makes mistakes; I judge people not so much by their mistakes as by what they do to correct them.

I come from the South and have seen first hand what happens when police are allowed to abuse their power. I sure as hell don't want to see that happen here!

In the past, I have always encouraged friends and acquaintances to attend the Jamboree. I won't make that mistake again. One person remarked, "What happened to the 'Friendship' part of this?" I have always supported the downtown business community and shop there frequently. Lately, though, I find myself avoiding that area (wouldn't want to get a ticket for under-inflated tires or something equally reprehensible).

Another reason for his removal is that Chief Cahill's actions have brought unwarranted disgrace to this great community. I hope everyone read the article about the Jamboree in *The Oregonian*. The article

made us look like a bunch of lawless, drunken buffoons. This is not some Old West frontier town, nor do we act like that.

However, I think the last sentence of that article is the best reason of all to not give Chief Cahill "another chance," as some suggest we should. The paper quoted him as saying, that without his actions, "there is no telling what would have happened". Chief Cahill, I can tell you what would have happened: the same thing as usual - not much. He didn't "get it" then, now or in the future. His mindset is such that he will always disrespect and fear the people of this town and I'm certain he will not and cannot change. Once a bully, always a bully.

I beg all citizens to demand that this miscreant be removed from office NOW. Demand that the mayor and council take immediate action and correct their dismal mistake and make our community whole again. Their job is to serve the electorate, not emplace some petty dictator.

But, if, for some unfathomable reason, Chief Cahill is allowed to remain in office, I suggest we change the name of the Jamboree to "Vernonia Gestapo Days - Re-live 1938 Germany!" or, how about "ArrestFest '04"?

Finally, Chief Cahill - I challenge you to take the correct and honorable course of action and resign. You don't like us and we don't like you. Let us part company on civil terms while we still can.

Wolfgang Rotbart
Vernonia

Thank you to all emergency workers

To: Vernonia Fire, Police, Paramedics, and Volunteers:

I would like to take this opportunity as a local resident and business owner of Vernonia to applaud you! I take my hat off to you all. Every one of you who serves this community, regardless of the politics, who stand proud in support of life, safety, and health, are symbols of what this community and what this country truly represents.

I wish I had known earlier of your tribute to 9-11 and those who have fallen on behalf of those in need on that momentous event, so that my family and I could have supported you more. My handshakes seemed pitiful as compensation for the sacrifices you make for my family, my-

self, and my community.

The tribute that I witnessed on the evening of September 11, 2003 on Bridge Street, was inspirational and emotionally moving. Throughout the United States many events took place in honor of those who served and sacrificed on this day, but I feel exceptionally rewarded to know that I am part of a community that is willing to show its true colors of love, respect, and admiration, not only to those who served, but as a beacon of those who continue to serve in such a caring manner today.

We have called upon you many times as a family, and each time you have proven yourselves to be professional, necessary, and worthy. I have never worried about a family member in your care. Feel proud in your accomplishments! Your values and what you provide to our community represent what I strive to teach my children in regard to self-purpose, patriotism, love of country, and mankind.

Remembrance is indicative of growth, love, and respect. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Michael Botchie, President
Precision Building
Maintenance, Inc.
Vernonia

Senior Center needs help from community

To the Editor:

To the Citizens of Vernonia:

Who are you? Anyone that lives in the mailing area of 97064.

I am trying to make you aware of a very real need at your Senior Center.

1. Almost all of you say there is a need for the Senior Center to be a part of the community.

2. A great majority of you know we exist, but don't bother to come in.

3. A large majority of you come in to shop, visit and eat with us and enjoy the things offered at the center.

4. A small majority of you bother to join us as a member (\$10.00 a year, plus voting rights on issues that come up).

5. A very small group care or bother to become active in the politics of keeping the doors open and running. Yes, it's all volunteer work.

6. I have told you in past articles I've written that the center needed bodies. Now, we need more than bodies. We need people to come forward that can help us run the Senior Center.

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