

Letters

From page 3

Technician (EMT) school. Grant money has been very hard to get the last several years. Our Ambulance Association is solely funded by contributions and fund raisers.

We, the volunteers, are very appreciative of your kindness and volunteers are always needed. If you would like to help save a life and make a difference in your community, please call 503-429-4600 for more information. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
**The Vernonia Volunteer
 Ambulance Association**

Vernonia gave visitors wonderful experience

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Vernonia Li-

ons Club I would like to express our appreciation to the City of Vernonia for the use of camp sites and facilities in Anderson Park during the recent Youth Exchange Program Excursion.

Mayor Cindy Ball's presence at the picnic supper was especially appreciated. I believe it gave the young people and their chaperones a sense of our small-town approach.

The next morning the group went over to the Ridge Riders' arena and were offered horseback rides. I think every one of them took a turn – some with the assistance of Ridge Rider members. They also saw a demonstration of barrel racing.

The drivers told us that the group thoroughly enjoyed themselves and they said they would like to include our town on their tour next year but the rules will not allow it. Anyhow, a good time was had by all.

A big Thank You to Donna Webb and Enid Parrow for putting together a package on the history of Vernonia.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,
**Bill James, President
 Vernonia Lions Club**

A new event planned for Fall Salmon Fest

To the Editor:

This letter is addressed to all of the GREAT cooks and CRAFTY craft people in Vernonia and area.

We will be holding an Exhibition (where you can bring your handmade crafts and baking, etc., to be judged) in conjunction with the Salmon Festival on October 2, 2004.

There are many great cooks and talented people in the area who will now have a chance to share their varied talents with others.

The key to success of this type of show is for everyone to get involved!! So dig out some of those super recipes, finish up that craft project you started and bring it to the show.

This will be strictly an amateur show – no professionals for you to compete against.

There will be booklets available at various businesses in the next few weeks that will give you all the information you need.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved by

helping on the Exhibition Committee, please call me at 503-429-8133. Any and all ideas will be greatly appreciated.

Watch *The INDEPENDENT* for more information.

**Janie Wasmann
 Vernonia**

Remember that new pavement is slippery

To the Editor:

The paving of highway 47 will soon begin. This is a friendly reminder that the new pavement will have lots of oils and will be very slick, especially after it rains. Please slow down and take extra caution while driving to prevent accidents. Also, try to be patient as this will be a frustrating time, but the end result will be very worth it. Perhaps try Timber Road to highway 26 as an alternate route. As always, safety is our main concern... BE CAREFUL!!

Sincerely,
**The Vernonia Volunteer
 Ambulance Association**

Vernonia Cares work still greatly needed

Dear Community Supporter:

First of all, thank you for your support of Vernonia Cares Food Bank. As you would expect, the need for food continues as our economy continues to reflect the loss of jobs and assistance programs. In July 2004, Cares helped 262 people (98 of them children). Without your support, Vernonia Cares could not be your hand extended in food assistance to help the hungry. Our goal is still to provide three days of emergency groceries, once a month, for households in and around Vernonia.

Another reason for this letter is to ask you to continue (or begin) to support Vernonia Cares. Approximately one-third of our budget comes through the United Way of Columbia County with the remaining two-thirds coming from direct contributions and fund raisers. This year, from Sept. 1 through November 19, United Way will run their community fund drive. We hope you will support them. You have the option to give directly to Vernonia Cares by designation on the United Way donor gift card. Also, if you

work in other counties, please be aware that you can designate your payroll deduction pledge through the United Way of Columbia County. That way more agencies in Columbia County, including Vernonia Cares, benefit from your gift. To contact United Way of Columbia County, call Rainier 1-503-556-3614.

During the United Way fund drive, Vernonia Cares will not ask for contributions (even though we continue to need them and can accept them). As we near this fund raising blackout period for Cares, we ask you to continue to support this food bank. Though we will not ask for donations during the next three months, your support is desperately needed. The food bank doesn't shut down during this time. In fact, indications are that we'll be needed even more this fall. We never want to be in a position of saying "no" to someone who needs food, or of choosing between a toddler and a teen's eligibility for food.

Because Vernonia Cares is a non-profit organization, your gift is tax-deductible. We also stretch our budget as far as we can. We buy food through the Columbia Pacific Food Bank at 14 cents per pound; we access free bread through another division of the Oregon Food Bank; we pick up food from any commercially packaged resource that allows us to do so.

As with any small organization, we could not do all that we do without faithful volunteers and we can always use more! Could you, or someone you know volunteer four hours per week? How about assisting on the board for two hours a month? We also need people who could facilitate budgets, seek grants, food, or product donations. Volunteers with strong backs are needed to assist on the monthly freight delivery day. Many kinds of assistance are required to run this food bank. Though we're open Tuesday and Thursday, we work many more hours behind the scenes.

Vernonia Cares also hopes to gain food and money towards 2004 holiday food boxes. Last year we dispersed 121 holiday food baskets, including

See page 25

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