

Letters, cont.

From page 22

izen wishes to read or get copies of.

Tammy Maygra
Deer Island

"Down Here" sign is not an attraction

To the Editor:

I moved to Vernonia from Portland almost three years ago. Due to the charm of the

townspeople and the surrounding beauty, I have become very attached to this colorful little gem: the great men and ladies working at the gas stations and the Sentry, the old Lyon's Den regulars, filthy loggers after a hard day's work, the misfit teenagers, the crew at the Senior Center, the beautiful Nehalem River and Rock Creek running through town – the list goes on and on. It is a great

small town with huge tourist potential, which in my opinion, could be a beautiful, prosperous thing for all.

However, the new "Hey, it's down here!" sign to be placed down on Highway 26 just seems off the mark. First, Vernonia is "up here". Second, the male figure wrapped around the sign has got to be one of the goofiest graphics I've ever seen. Why not something neutral, like a salmon, or an eagle, rivers, or a family? Is this considered public art? If so, shouldn't the local community have been given a preview of the sign so that public opinion could be taken into consideration? What is that illustration supposed to represent about Vernonia? Once that sign is in place, I believe it will serve more as an embarrassment to this town than an attraction, and that is really a shame.

Jennifer Foust
Vernonia

Nat'l Guard member appreciates support

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As I serve my deployment in Guantanamo Bay Cuba, I feel it's appropriate to stay in contact with the good people at home in Columbia County.

First, I would like to thank the community for all the support they have given the Oregon National Guard in part [to] my family and I in the past years. Just as the Soldiers have fulfilled our military duties for our country, the community has certainly risen to support the families of soldiers in harms way.

The last time I was home was in May of 2004. Besides missing my home in Clatskanie, ironically, I also miss the weather. Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is extremely hot and humid year round. Funny, people think of Cuba as being com-

pletely tropical. That is true, except for GTMO. Here, it hardly ever rains. The landscape resembles a high desert; much like Eastern Oregon, but with cactus, banana rats and iguanas.

We are kept very occupied with our duties and time does tend to move quickly. In no time at all I will be home. I would like to point out that regardless of your political position, this mission is very important to our freedom. Once again, thanks for your support and I'll write again when I can.

Respectfully yours,
Staff Sgt Richard Lumos
U.S. Army
1186 MP CO
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Ike Says...

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tions either have, or have access to, Landowner Preference tags. Third, the cattle industry and its allies had an inappropriate representation on the working group. It always strikes me as wrong when sportsmen are a minority in any work group that is setting management objectives. I also feel that people who have access to LOP tags will not have the same concerns as everyday sportsmen when it comes to restricting tags. They will get tags every year, regardless of the management objectives. I also think, since probably two-thirds of the hunters in this unit are from the Westside of the state, they should have had representation on the work group.

It was pointed out to me that a lot of the work group members want to go back to the old days of low elk numbers, high quality bulls and lots of deer. Having hunted this unit a lot in the past, I can understand their thinking. There used to be a lot

more deer and a lot fewer elk. The problem with this logic is that the habitat has surely changed. The forest service keeps putting out forest fires that would benefit deer and the forest has matured into one that favors elk. The district biologist out of John Day stated, "We don't have any problems growing elk, in fact we have a hard time keeping them within the management objectives." So the question is: Do we want to try this experiment to replace elk with deer (which there is no science to support), or accept that we have a good thing going, let the elk herd expand and capitalize on what we know we can do successfully? You still have time to send in written comments to ODF&W, attention to Peter Test.

Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter
meets on the third Thursday
of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Call 503-429-7193 for location of meeting.

Vernonia Riverfest

April 23, 2005

FEATURING:

at Anderson Park;
Kayaking, Canoeing, or Rafting

(launch 8 am to 12:30 pm)

at Hawkins Park;

Chili Cook Off, entries in by 10 am

Home Brew Contest, entries in by 1 pm

Duck Race at 3:30 pm

Beer Garden, Crafts, Food, and More

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