

# The **INDEPENDENT**

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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## Oregon Trail Rally returns to Vernonia



Rally racing can get pretty wild on unknown logging roads.

Tighten your belts and hold on as international competition races on challenging northwest Oregon forestry roads for the Oregon Trail Rally, April 22-24. With 70 competitors registered, this promises to be an action packed weekend.

The Oregon Trail Rally is a three-day extreme motorsport event that tests driver's skill in

production-based cars and trucks from manufacturers around the world. They compete both for the overall victory and wins within a class structure that groups together vehicles with similar performance.

Special spectator stages are planned for Friday afternoon at Portland International Raceway to include five competitor

stages in the heart of Portland, explained clerk of the course, Mike Nagle. "This includes a 4 mile super special stage, similar to those run at international rally events around the world, where two cars will race each other on a split course at the same time." Starting side-by-side at the track's drag start line, the competing pair will complete separate laps of two different loops around the complex. As each crew completes their first lap they switch over to the other's loop, and as they

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## School board candidates will appear at PTA forum

You can meet the candidates for Vernonia School Board on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m., when the Vernonia Community PTA presents a public forum at Washington Grade School.

All candidates will be introduced and will answer questions which were constructed and presented in advance by the PTA. There will also be a public question and answer period near the end of the forum.

Five of the seven board positions will be on the ballot.

Leslie Barnes and Dick Brunsman are seeking Position 4, currently held by Gienah Cheney, who was appointed and did not file for election.

Position 6 incumbent James Krahn is being challenged by Kim Wallace.

A three-way race has developed for Position 7, held by Philip Doyle, who was appointed. In addition to Doyle, Deborah Brown and Ernie Smith are seeking to fill the position.

Two additional positions will be on the ballot: Angela Taylor is the sole candidate for Position 1, now held by Ed Buckner who was appointed and did not seek election. Cari Levenseller is unopposed in seeking reelection to Position 5.

The PTA wants the community to be prepared, informed, and able to make an educated decision for the May 17 election. The children of Vernonia are the future and schools are the heart of this small town. Everyone is encouraged to attend this forum.

**Vernonia River Fest**  
**April 23, 2005**  
**See Special Pull-out Section for Details**

## Leadership trainees apply lessons to aid local projects

A group of 27 Vernonia citizens will be traveling together at the end of April to Kah-Nee-Ta Resort in Central Oregon to attend a "Conference of the Communities," as part of the Ford Family Institute Community Leadership Program. The group from Vernonia, which is made up of a diverse range of citizens, including three high school students, will be joining citizens from the communities of Bandon, Sherman County, Wallowa County and Walla Walla, Washington. The five groups will spend the weekend in leadership training with topics that include "advocacy and consensus building," "Building multi-party agreement in your community," and "mentoring." Additionally, each group will have a display table and make a presentation about their com-

munity. Each of the participating communities will also make a presentation to the entire gathering describing a project chosen to work on over the next 12-18 months as part of their training program. The Vernonia group is working on a street-scaping project for the downtown area which has been titled "Archway of the Past - Gateway to the Future." This will include the creation and installation of public art which emphasizes the history of Vernonia. Although still in the planning stages, the focus of the project will be four metal archways at the entrance to four proposed downtown pocket parks. The project is expected to enhance the city-wide goals of creating pedestrian-friendly areas and

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Teenagers to senior citizens, these Vernonia residents are enjoying and learning from leadership training provided by the Ford Family Foundation.