

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Fireworks enthralled viewers in Vernonia on the 4th of July as the pyrotechnic displays lit up the night sky with brilliant bursts of color and sound. More photos on page 28.

County Emergency Services Fair slated

The first-ever countywide Emergency Services Fair, sponsored by Columbia Emergency Planning Association (CEPA), will be Friday and Saturday, July 22-23, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds, with many of CEPA's 280 members participating. "This event will help fair visitors understand the resources available during emergency situations and programs that continually work to prevent hazards," said CEPA facilitator Jim Huff.

Events will include a tank rescue by the Specialized Multi-Agency Rescue Team, emergency responders from Scappoose Fire and Columbia River Fire & Rescue (CRF&R) will demonstrate extraction from a car using the jaws of life, Oregon State Police (OSP) will

demonstrate with the Bomb Squad Robot, St. Helens Police will demonstrate a tactical entry, plus a K-9 drug-sniffing take-down by Vernonia and St. Helens Police dogs and a mock meth lab cleanup by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Spectators may also watch fire suppression demonstrations by the Oregon Department of Forestry and use of the telesquirt by CRF&R crews. The Clatskanie Police Department will participate in a taser exhibition, while CRF&R and Sanderson Safety team up to educate ESF fair visitors on how to operate a fire extinguisher.

Several members of Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) will bring their new communications van, do-

nated by Portland General Electric, to the fair. Stop by their booth and watch these radio operators create communication links anywhere in the world. They will also be offering free calls to servicemen in Iraq or anywhere else in the world!

A feature event of the two-
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City will evaluate nuisance and hazard violations

There is one house on your street that everyone envies. You know the one...it has a yard with lush green carpeting and beautiful landscaping. There is also the opposite of that house. You know this one, too...it has waist high grass, overgrown trees, and the only flowers are dandelions.

In addition to creating unkempt conditions, tall grass,

Flag pole and light to replace tree in city park

After deciding that a flagpole and flag that will be lighted around the clock, is more appropriate at Vernonia Lake than a tree, the Vernonia City Coun-

cil decided at their July 5 meeting to form a new committee to review the requirements for becoming part of the Tree City USA program.

Public meeting will review new trail to Vernonia

Columbia County will hold a public meeting to provide an update and obtain public comment on development of the Crown-Zellerbach Trail. The trail will run 22 miles from Chapman Landing, on the Multnomah Channel in Scappoose, to Vernonia.

Discussion items will include grant funding through the Rails to Trails program, obligations of the Hancock easement, public access and use, current trail status, concerns of adjacent landowners, and development of a master plan. There will also be time for questions and comments.

County residents and property owners are invited to attend, as well as anyone who is interested in learning about the C-Z Trail Project.

The meeting will be held in Vernonia on Tuesday, July 12, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Washington Grade School, 199 Bridge Street. A second meeting will be in Scappoose.

Noni Andersen had made a presentation at the June 20 council meeting regarding the Tree City program developed by the National Arbor Day Foundation. There are 38 Oregon cities in the program at this time.

The criteria set by the National Arbor Day Foundation includes:

Adopting a tree care ordinance; establishing a program, tree board or commission; spending at least \$2 per capita on a community tree care program, and conducting an Arbor Day or Arbor Week ceremony.

Andersen also provided information from the Oregon Department of Forestry, including a model ordinance.

Also at the June meeting, the Lions Club offered to place a lighted flag and pole at Vernonia Lake near the restroom building where a tree was recently removed. In July, the council received an offer from Rebecca McGaugh, who said her family would donate and care for a replacement tree at the lake.

City Administrator Robyn Bassett reported that the lowest
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blackberries and weeds can harbor trash and hazards which are dangerous to people, especially children. Pests such as mice and rats, which can carry disease organisms including hantavirus, are attracted to these conditions. An overgrown lot that becomes dry in the heat of summer is also a potential fire hazard.

For these reasons, a Ver-

nonia City Ordinance requires that vegetation be kept under 12 inches in height. The city will be evaluating violations and pursuing resolution for non-compliance.

Because everyone wants to live in a safe and attractive neighborhood, residents are asked to work with the City to promote a beautiful, pleasant and safe community.