

THE INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

July 21, 2005

Were you calling us?



A family of otters check out the action at Vernonia Lake.

Join the National Night Out celebration

The community is invited to join the Vernonia Police Department at Anderson Park on Tuesday, August 2, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., for the 22nd annual "National Night Out" (NNO).

Vernonia is one of 30 Oregon communities registered to participate in NNO, a crime prevention event involving 34 million people in more than 10,000 communities across the nation.

For Vernonia's NNO, Chief of Police Mathew Workman is working with many organizations, including the Vernonia Fire District, Metro-West, the Red Cross, Vernonia Lions and others. There will be free BBQ, raffles, music, and other activities. The night will be fun while showing that Vernonians are unified in their fight against crime.

Businesses and individuals can help in many ways, including donations of goods or services. If you would like to help in any way, contact Chief Workman at the Vernonia Police Department, 503-429-7335.

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW), the originators of NNO, has announced that Target is this year's national corporate sponsor.

Family fun at Columbia County Fair

The Columbia County Fair got underway yesterday, and is going strong in its 90th year, with activities until 11 p.m. tonight, Friday and Saturday, and until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The carnival opens daily at noon; tonight is the junior rodeo at 6:00 p.m., and there are two nights of professional rodeo; demonstrations ranging from old time threshing machines to skateboards and BMX bikes will fascinate people of all ages. There is an abundance of free entertainment, plus 4-H

and open competitions, a great Chili Cook-off and much, much more.

You won't want to miss the first-ever Emergency Services Fair, either, with demonstrations — as varied as K-9 drug sniffing to a Bomb Squad Robot — by emergency responders from throughout the county.

If you haven't picked up the full schedule from one of the stores around town, they may still be available from the stand at *The INDEPENDENT* office, 725 Bridge Street.

New trail will be topic for Vernonia meeting

Two meetings have been scheduled by Columbia County on the planned 22 mile-long linear trail along the old Crown Zellerbach mainline, from the Multnomah Channel at Chapman Landing to the City of Vernonia.

The first meeting is tonight, July 21, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Scout Cabin in Vernonia's Hawkins Park. The second meeting will be Wednesday, July 27, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Scappoose City Hall, 33568 E. Columbia Avenue.

County Commissioner Tony Hyde will open the meeting, and maps showing the trail alignment will be available. The county is seeking comments and suggestions from the public to provide an information base for development of a master plan for the trail.

The county purchased the 17-mile-long former logging road from Hancock Timber Re-

source Group, with assistance from the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department and the Department of Transportation.

Helping the project along, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has allocated \$267,000 to replace several deep culverts along the right-of-way. Originally constructed for the Portland-Southwestern Railroad in the early 1900s, it was used to take logs from Vernonia to Chapman Landing until 1945. It was converted to a logging road by Crown-Zellerbach.

Anyone residing or owning property in Columbia County and/or interested in learning about the trail project is urged to attend one or both of these meetings.

Barbecue benefit for local food bank

You can enjoy great barbecued chicken on Saturday, July 23, and help Vernonia Cares Food Bank at the same time.

The menu for the fund raising dinner will include a quarter barbecued chicken, potato salad, baked beans, roll, ice cream cup and a beverage — all for just \$7.00. It will be served by Cares volunteers at the Vernonia Senior Center from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Take-out meals will also be available during that same time.

Tickets for the barbecue will be available at the door, 446 Bridge Street, beginning at 5:00 p.m., July 23. Sales will continue until 8:00 p.m. or until the food is gone.

"Show your support and have a great meal at the same time. We'll do the clean up!" Director Sandy Welch said.

Bridge work will close Timber Rd.

Part of Timber Road, north of Hwy. 6, will be closed for about two months to replace a deteriorating culvert at Beaver Creek with a new bridge.

According to the Washington County Department of Land Use and Transportation a new one-span 48-foot-long concrete bridge will replace a severely rusted eight-foot diameter pipe. The contractor began moving equipment on site Monday July 18, 2005. Timber Road will be closed to all traffic until the first week of September. Strassel Road can be used as a detour between Hwy 26 and Timber Road.

The new bridge will be a 48-
Please see page 5