

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

It's time for Jamboree fun and friendship

After 49 years, the community still gets excited about Jamboree with friends and family. Lots of former residents will be visiting and a lot of family members will come to join the fun. This is the way it should be.

Parents will be helping children at the fishing derby; multi-generational families will be participating in the horse gaming; proud children will toss candy to spectators as they ride in their Dad's shiny log truck in the parade. Whole families will work together on their entries for the car show and costumed participants in the Nehalem Valley Rendezvous will range from preschool age to octogenarians.

There will be games for children, dances for teens, and concerts for all ages. Friends and families will meet for breakfast at the Senior Center, then join in worship together. Many of the logging show officials and participants are the grandchildren of those who started this time-honored activity.

There will be so many activities underway, simultaneously, that we undoubtedly will miss some element of Jamboree.

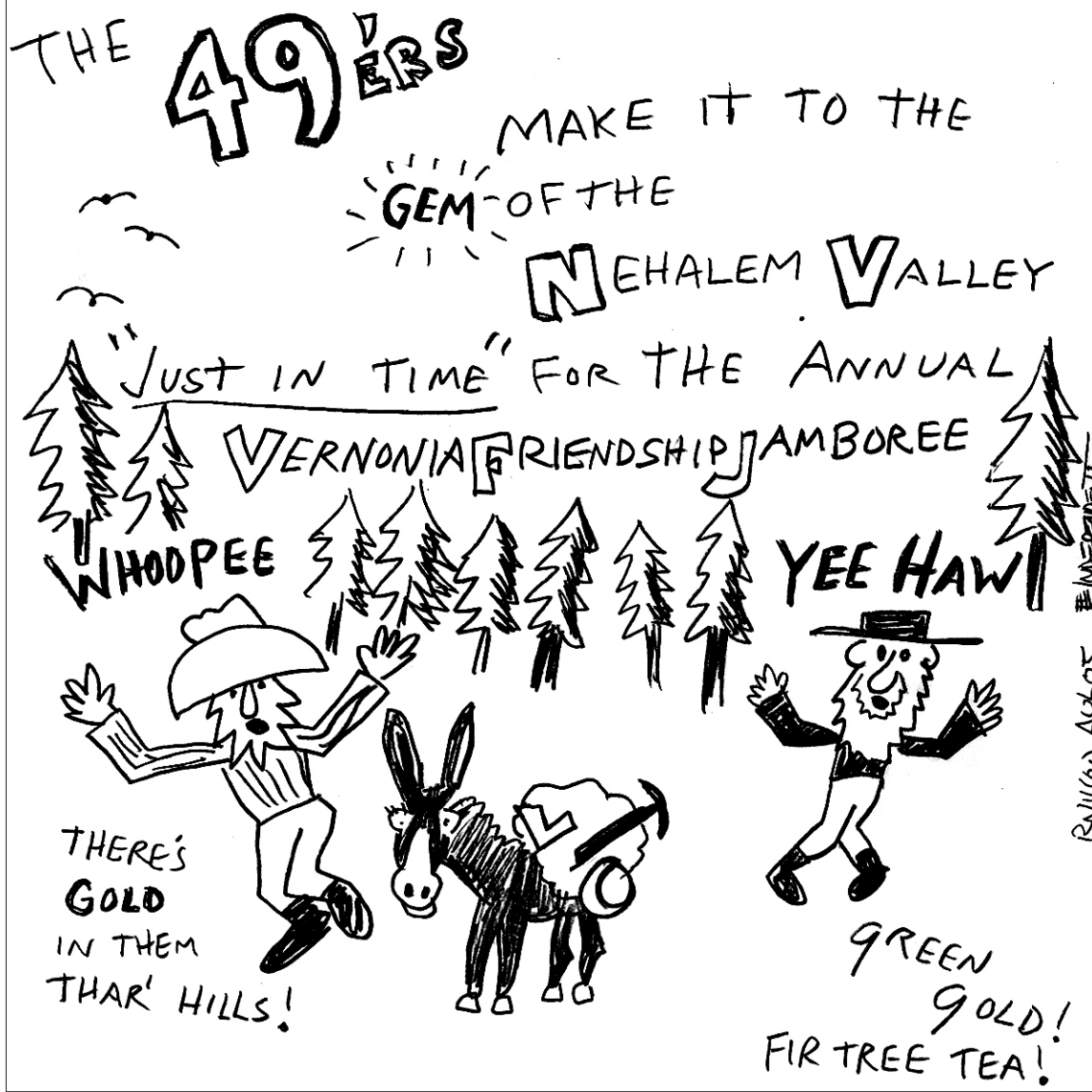
Vernonia's population will swell this weekend to about double the official figure; at times there will be even more people. Newcomers will get their first impression of Vernonia and former residents will see how it measures up to their memories.

This is when we can be Vernonia's best ambassadors or worst examples; it is up to us. So, let's help the newcomers have as much fun as the old timers. Just kick back, relax and enjoy the 49th annual Jamboree.

Be careful, have fun, and please don't drink and drive. Not many family members will take time during Jamboree to visit you in jail and no one wants to spend time in the hospital.

★ ★ CAUTION ★ ★

The annual Multiple Sclerosis bike ride is the same weekend as Jamboree. On Sunday, August 7, there will be approximately 750 bike riders along Hwy. 47, McDonald Road, Pebble Creek and Timber Road. For everyone's safety, please be careful!



Ike Says . . .

By Dale Webb, member Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League



It's Jamboree time again! Don't forget to take the kids down to the Fishing Derby at Vernonia Lake on Friday. Sign up between 4-5 p.m., then fish for an hour. There are lots of great prizes, besides fishing is fun!

This sure is a different year; it does look like we are going to get a summer though. The Nehalem River is maintaining well above the average stream flow for this time of year. This is good news because this will provide more habitat and cooler temperatures for local fish populations. While we have good news inland, the news out in the ocean is not so good. Recently, the waters off the coast have been abnormally warm, which is great if you are a tuna, but not for salmon. Tuna have been caught as close as 12 miles off the mouth of the Columbia, now that is close.

Did you hear about the anchovy bait ball that moved up the Necanicum River at Seaside? The pictures that I saw showed dead anchovies everywhere. The concentration of fish was so high that they sucked the oxygen right out of the water and suffocated themselves. It was reported that the anchovies were seen as far as five miles upstream. Local fishermen cashed in on this event, with some of them dipping up to several hundred pounds of fresh anchovies for bait.

This is not the first time this has happened in the Seaside area, a friend told me, it happened a few years back and the town did stink for a while afterwards.

Recently I attended my class reunion. That was a great time and the next day we had a reunion of all the classes in the seventies, which was more fun. This brought up a theme that is getting a lot of talk in the hunting forums. Hunting as many of us have known it, has changed from the annual get-together of our younger days.

It used to be that hunting trips and the reunion of old friends happened on a yearly basis. I remember my hunting party, which always had a person or two that you didn't associate with on a daily, or even a monthly basis. Yet we would make camp together and tell hunting stories to each other every year.

This went away when controlled drawing entered the hunting scene a number of years back. The effects of controlled drawings are starting to show in the form of lower hunter participation and lack of recruitment of young hunters. I believe this hidden effect, while subtle at first, will have huge ramifications in the future.

It is interesting to note that hunter numbers were not the sole driving force for controlled hunting; it was and is game populations. Hunter numbers have steadily declined since the controlled hunt format began and continues to decline each year. Some think this is good news because they may be able to draw more often,