

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

August 17, 2006

Ready, set, puuull!



Typical of action at the Banks Tractor Pull is the V12 Allison driven by Clay Johnson in a previous year. Please see page 28 for a full schedule of this year's events.

Vernonia Council minutes are now online

The August 7, Vernonia City Council began with Mayor Sally Harrison reading a statement about the Waste Water project out loud (see Opinion, page 2, for transcript).

Helen Johnston thanked the City for putting the council meeting minutes and agendas on the city's website (www.vernonia-or.gov).

Clark McGaugh asked council about the citizen notification

prior to fireworks that the council had agreed to some time ago. Councilor Randy Parrow said he thought that the group that Mayor Harrison had appointed would take care of that function. Harrison said, "We'll revisit that."

Chief of Police Mat Workman told council that there were seven Vernonia officers plus 18 other volunteer officers here during Jamboree and that

they took six reports, had nine arrests, about 30 traffic stops, and that, overall, Jamboree

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Enjoy family fun at Vernonia Night Out

"Vernonia Night Out" (VNO) will be hosted by the Vernonia Police Department on Tuesday, August 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Anderson Park. VNO is a crime prevention event to raise community awareness and involvement.

You are invited to join others in the community for a free barbeque, raffles, music and other activities. See police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, bike safety information and other community organizations information.

Join your neighbors on August 22 and take a stand against crime and violence.

Wyden town hall meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 24, in St. Helens

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will host Columbia and Clatsop County town hall meetings on Thursday, August 24; county residents are invited to attend the open forums to voice their questions and concerns.

The Columbia County town hall meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on August 24, at St. Helens City Council Chambers, 265 Strand. The Clatsop Coun-

ty meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. on August 24, at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, Kern Room, 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria.

In Wyden's first U.S. Senate campaign in 1996 he promised to hold a town hall meeting in every Oregon county each year; since being elected he has held more than 400 such meetings across the state.

If you're ready for a bike ride, tour the newest trail

You can be one of the first riders on the new...and unfinished...linear trail between Vernonia and Scappoose, next Sunday, on the second leg of the trail tour.

The first leg of the ride, between Scappoose and the summit of Scappoose-Vernonia Road, was held last Saturday.

The October 20 ride will start at the summit (where the road to Gunners Lake starts), head west about four miles to Camp 8, then continue up and over a ridge to Knott Street in Vernonia. Depending on where participants decide to stop, the ride will take from two to four hours to complete (this includes discussion/rest stops, a flat tire and lunch).

Participants will need to drop off bikes at the summit no later than 8:00 a.m. and return by car to Camp 8, the wide area off Scappoose-Vernonia Road where the trail crosses. A bus will pick all riders up at 8:30 a.m. and take back to the summit for the 9:00 a.m. start.

There will be two stopping places. The first will be at Camp 8, where the vehicles are located. The second will be for the adventurous (in shape) riders who want to ride to the end of Knott Street in Vernonia.

The ride will start in heavily wooded areas, traveling west. An early lunch is planned in the trees at the bridge crossing the East Fork Nehalem River. This is a peaceful area shaded by trees on the edge of the river. The trail crosses Scappoose-Vernonia Road at this location. Over the next three miles, the trail is still used as a logging road, going up and over a ridge and ending at the top of Knott Street.

The ride from the summit to the Camp 8 area will be mostly

down hill with three- to six-percent grades. After crossing the river, it is up hill. From the river, the tour will go about one-tenth of a mile, cross Scappoose-Vernonia Road and continue up the trail. From Scappoose-Vernonia Road, the trail/road has a 12+ percent grade for about a mile, then levels out on top of the ridge. The last mile is mostly down hill on 12 to 24 percent grades.

There is a nice view near the top of the ridge, but those not adventurous (or in shape), may opt for a short climb up the trail to see the view, then return to the vehicles to complete the ride. There will be a bus at the end of Knott Street to pick up the riders who took the whole route, to take them back to the vehicles at Camp 8. Security will be provided for the bikes until everyone has returned to Knott Street to pick them up.

Participants need to prepare for this ride, which is all on gravel, so gloves with padded palms will be more comfortable on the hands.

Short pants are cooler, but there will be some brush, briars, and stinging nettles along the way, although most are easy to avoid.

Flat tires may occur due to The gravel is hard on tires so it

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Vernonia Cares
10K Bear Creek Run
Saturday, Aug. 19
Registration 8:00 AM
@ Anderson Park

\$30 Registration Fee
For more information go to
signmeup.com/53362
or call Terry Grosnick
503 429-0506