

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

May 17, 2007

He's Saaafe!



Vernonia's Byron Schorzman crosses the bag safely in a double header against Horizon Christian on Monday. The Loggers took the first game 5-4 and lost the second 10-5.

New biking event premieres in Vernonia

This year's inaugural "We Will Because We Can™" Bike Ride is different than other bike rides. The Cancer Community Renewal Project – a small grass-roots nonprofit organization – did not start with financial sponsors or a specific budget. From the very beginning it relied on the "heart" of local communities, businesses, and organizations to create and produce this significant event.

Gathering volunteers and leaders from diverse community groups, local businesses and city-wide programs, the Cancer Community Renewal Project has created local partnerships that provide valuable resources and inspiration to help support this adventure. These ongoing partnerships, which already include local businesses and organizations in Vernonia, will also create and sustain community-based activity programs that inspire and empower cancer survivors as they develop

and maintain regular physical activity and other wellness programs to reduce the side effects from cancer treatments and the risk of recurrence.

On June 2-3, 2007, in celebration of National Cancer Survivors' Day, The Cancer Community Renewal Project will present the inaugural We Will Because We Can™ Bike Ride in and around Vernonia. This well-supported physical adventure for breast cancer survivors, their families and friends, will offer various routes from a 10 mile Family Ride along the Banks/Vernonia Linear Trail to longer, hilly rides and various routes in-between.

Both days of the ride will provide a choice of routes through scenic farms and forests throughout Columbia County.

May 15 Election Results may be found on page 5

Riders will be able to choose from 10, 25, 66, 68 or 78 mile options.

Sponsors are hoping to include as many members from the Vernonia community as possible, in both the Family Ride

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Parvovirus confirmed in Vernonia

On Saturday, May 12, Columbia County Animal Control Officer, Roger Kadell responded to assist a Vernonia resident with two very sick puppies. Both puppies were dehydrated and showed signs of Parvo infection. The owners reported that they believed that a neighbors dog had also been afflicted by this illness.

Parvo is highly contagious and can remain in a yard for years, re-emerging each spring to infect new victims. The illness is spread through contact with other dogs, contact with locations where other dogs have

City budget process starting; council works on full agenda

Prior to the May 7 Vernonia City Council meeting, the first meeting of the city budget committee was convened. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 was distributed and additional meetings were scheduled for May 9, 14 and 15. The total proposed budget amount is \$5,065,696. The final budget hearing is scheduled for June 25. Members of the budget committee present were Darlene McLeod, Rebecca McGaugh and Scott Laird, plus the mayor and all councilors. (Two open positions were filled during the regular council meeting, with the appointment of Bruce McNair and Cindy Ball.)

The council voted to allow summer use of remote control airplanes at Vernonia Airport, and if that goes well, they will consider including these planes as an approved activity by modifying the Airport ordinance. Councilor Shirlee Daughtry gave the lone nay vote, commenting that she supports the Parks Committee's recommendation not to allow these planes due to the

negative impact on park usage from the continuous noise they create. Mayor Sally Harrison then read the Parks Committee's recommendation so it would become part of the record to be used during future consideration of this issue.

Mayor Harrison proclaimed May to be Emergency Medical Services Month. Michelle Kay, **Please see page 4**

"First Friday" events start on June 1st

The First Friday of every month, Vernonia's downtown businesses will team up to bring you food, music, discounts and special buys. Join your neighbors downtown for the first "First Friday" on June 1, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

First Friday is an opportunity to wander along Bridge Street and stop into shops to enjoy special features. These may include cultural offerings such as music, food or art, or special purchases such as discounts or new items. A map of participating shops will be available on Friday morning at downtown businesses.

This evening offers an alternative way to socialize with friends and coworkers. After touring the shops, you can round out the evening with a stop at one of the restaurants or bars downtown.

This event will coincide with the "We Will Because We Can" Bike Ride 2007. Residents are encouraged to meet and welcome these athletes who ride to celebrate survivorship of Breast Cancer.

First Friday is supported by the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce.

been and can be airborne from infected dogs. The best defense is to have dogs properly vaccinated and contact your veterinarian if your dog shows signs of illness. Call your veterinarian in advance to advise them of your concerns before exposing the office to an infected animal.

The main symptoms are a runny, sometimes bloody stool and a very strong, almost decaying odor of the stool.

Help assure the health of animals by vaccinating your dogs and not letting dogs roam from yard to yard.