

Letters

Flood washes out '08 Jamboree car show

To The Editor:

The Nehalem Valley Speed & Beauty Car Club's 17th Annual Car Show – The Jamboree Cruisin 2008 is cancelled this year.

We are sorry to inform you that, due to the recent flood, we will not be having our annual car show this year. Our school district is currently in mobile classrooms and using up all extra playground area that we have in the past used for park-

ing. We are hopeful that our school district will be able to build new schools at a new site. This will open up the current school grounds for parks and recreation.

This was a very difficult decision for our club to make. But, unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control, we are not able to offer the best show possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank, The Boomer Band & The Legendary Boomettes with Lee Garret for their years of fabulous enter-

tainment, our friends, family and community members for your tremendous support.

Our plan is, as next year approaches, we will send invitations as in the past.

Thank you,

Nehalem Valley Speed & Beauty Car Club

Outstanding effort by Vernonia Head Start

To The Editor:

On March 19, I met with the Federal Head Start reviewers, along with Daryl Mushatt, the Head Start parent representative, at Clatsop County Community College in Seaside. Every three years Federal reviewers go through every Head Start program reviewing paperwork, safety, bus safety, playgrounds, food preparation, medical and dental needs and much more, to assure Federal guidelines are met and funding can continue for all programs.

This year, the Vernonia center was in the process of being rebuilt after the flood damage that occurred during the December storm, so they were unable to review Vernonia in the normal way. They decided to come here anyway and were so glad they did. They viewed the room Head Start has been using in the library and were overwhelmed by the efficiency of the Vernonia staff's ability to get a center set up so quickly after the flood so that our children could have the normal school days they love so much.

The reviewers saw the drawings the children have done on the feelings they keep inside from the trauma of the flood and, for some, the loss of their homes. They were told that the children go on walks to the center as it is being rebuilt and this helps them see that things can go back to normal in their lives.

In my 28 years of working for Washington County Head Start I never experienced Federal reviewers who were so pleased with a center staff's love and caring for their children. They are writing to Washington, D.C., about how fast the children were back in school after the flood.

Vernonia needs to give a big thanks to Manager Kathy Kelly, lead teacher Karla Long, assistant teacher Carol Sohler, cook Gloria Castro, and bus driver and teacher aide Charolette Ziegler for their tremendous efforts this year.

**Lulu Lamping
Head Start**

Committee Representative

Immigrants not cause of economic troubles

To The Editor:

A year ago people could wonder whether immigration was harming the economy. But today it's clear that the economy is in big trouble and it has nothing to do with immigration, legal or illegal. The construction industry, real estate market, stock market, and the nation's basic financial institutions have been damaged by red-blooded 100% US citizens, the very captains of industry we are taught to look up to. What's more, the destruction was done through criminal and fraudulent activity that dwarfs in scale the misdemeanor of sneaking over a border.

In February US home foreclosures jumped 60% and bank seizures doubled. One in every 557 US households was in some stage of default, according to *Bloomberg News*.

As I write this, the Federal Reserve is bailing out the giant investment bank Bear-Sterns to the tune of thirty billions of dollars. Since August, over 7 TRILLION dollars of fictional capital has vanished from the books of the world economy as the housing bubble burst. US housing starts are down to the lowest level in a generation, and falling. Worrying about the economics of immigration today is like worrying about the laundry when the house is on fire.

If it isn't really the economy

that makes people all riled-up about immigration, what is it? Some say it's the issue of 'illegality'. These folks are eager to pass local laws against 'illegal workers' but say or do exactly nothing, zip, nada to reign in the upscale criminals whose predatory lending has given us the most dangerous recession since 1929.

When things get tough, it is the mark of cowards and racists to blame the weakest, least politically powerful among us. We need to 'cowboy-up' and face the fact that extremely powerful people and institutions have acted criminally and, out of extreme greed, abused their offices. This is not a matter of individual scandal, but system-wide corruption at the highest levels, in both business and government. No wonder some people are anxious to point the finger at the foreign-looking pizza delivery guy.

**Mike Edera
Scappoose**

Parents thank VFD for professional help

To The Editor:

We give our profuse thanks to the Vernonia Fire Department staff and volunteers for aiding our daughter, Rachel, after a riding accident last March 9, 2008. You were extremely prompt, caring, and professional. Also our profound thanks to the Vernonia High School Equestrian team and families for taking care of our horses while we are at the hospital.

Rachel is recovering very well, making great progress. She is walking, talking, regaining use of her right arm and hand, and is also regaining her short term memory.

Thank you, as well, to all of our friends in the community for your prayers and well wishes.

**Leslie & Mitch Seibert
Vernonia**

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