

The INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23, No. 12

"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

June 19, 2008

Brrr...



The Rock Creek swimmin' hole is ready, but summer has been a reluctant visitor. Nevertheless, the placid scene above will soon reverberate with the noisy laughter and activity of happy swimmers.

Governor thanks UNWC for "remarkable effort"

Governor Theodore Kulon-goski sent a letter, dated May 13, 2008, to the Chair of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC). The letter said, in part;

"On behalf of the State of Oregon, I want to thank the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council for their efforts with the recent cleanup of hazardous materials deposited in the Nehalem River floodplain by the flood of early December 2007."

The governor went on to say he appreciated the persistence and patience of the Council, and particularly the efforts of UNWC Coordinator Maggie Peyton, to keep attention focused on cleanup of the watershed in addition to the flood recovery efforts directed towards immediate human needs. Peyton's efforts resulted in the EPA and DEQ hazardous waste

cleanup of over 2,600 containers on 35 miles of the Nehalem River.

The letter ended by saying that, "This truly remarkable effort provides an outstanding example of how a local watershed group, together with public

agencies, can partner to help communities and the environment. The accomplishment underscores the strength and character of your community and its strong sense of stewardship for the watershed."

Daughtry resigns from Vernonia City Council

Mayor Sally Harrison announced, at the June 16 Vernonia City Council meeting, that she had a letter of resignation from Councilor Shirlee Daughtry. Harrison said, "With heavy heart, I accept her resignation. When anyone has an opportunity to thank her, please do so as she really loves this community." Later in the meeting, council asked staff to begin the process of filling this open council position. In the event of an early opening, the council

can appoint a councilor to complete the term of the open position.

Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson explained the new council agenda format. Regarding audience participation, Johnson said that the audience can participate on agenda items by raising their hand when the item comes up or they can speak, for up to five minutes, on items that are not on the agenda.

The council approved ac-

New interim administrator is an experienced, professional manager

Vernonia's new interim city administrator, Jim Johnson, isn't new to city management. After finishing his Master's degree in Urban Planning at the University of Oregon in 1974, he spent a year working as a planner for a private firm. Starting in 1975, his work at Lane County led him to a position in 1984 where he was County Administrator of Lane County with a staff of 1,200. What did he learn? He says his experience in Lane County taught him that administration is all about managing relationships.

Johnson tried to retire in 2002, after four years as Eugene's City Manager, but has found himself called back into city administration, first in Creswell, then in Roseburg, then as Interim Director at Lane County Air Protection Agency, and now in Vernonia. In the meantime, he moved from Lane County to Portland. His daughter lives in Portland and his wife is a Wilson High School graduate.

Discussing his philosophy about city staff, including himself, Johnson says, "We support the council's decisions by providing good, quality options and advice to help them make

good choices for the city. Once they adopt a policy, it's our job to implement those decisions and to provide high quality customer service."

The Vernonia downtown



Jim Johnson

streetscape, with its trees, lights, benches and full storefronts made a good first impression on him, said Johnson. He's also impressed by the number and quality of our city parks. He noted how well the

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Three fireworks events scheduled

There will be fireworks in Vernonia during the following upcoming events;

- June 21 at 9:30 p.m. at Cedar Ridge for the KUPL Fishing Derby.

- July 3 at 9:30 p.m. at a neighborhood celebration on Cherry Street.

- July 4 at 10:00 p.m. at Vernonia High School for the 4th of July celebration.

The public is asked to observe all signs and security boundaries. As some animals may be frightened by fireworks, please keep animals restrained and be sure they have identification on them, just in case.

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