

Letters

Vernonia PD thanks Lions for great help

To The Editor:

The Vernonia Police Department would like to officially thank the Lions Club of Vernonia for their continued dedication to the Vernonia Police Department K9 unit. As many of you know, the former K9 unit was used for rescue and transportation efforts in the December Flood of 2007. That vehicle had to be replaced and was declared a total loss by the City's insurance. The insurance money was used to replace the ve-

hicle with a 2000 Ford Expedition from the City of Portland.

The Vernonia Lions Club spearheaded a fund raising effort to outfit the replacement vehicle with a K9 platform. The Lions Club pulled out all the stops to, once again, show their dedication to this valuable asset to the City of Vernonia and surrounding area. Not only did the Vernonia Lions Club contribute, but they were able to solicit funds from regional clubs and organizations. Within two weeks the Lions Club had raised the \$2,500 needed to outfit the vehicle with a K9 platform that protects the dog from injuries, but also allows the vehicle to be more efficient by allowing prisoner transport as well. Previously, prisoners were transported in the front seat of the vehicle, which was not safe for the officer.

Without the Lions Club stepping up again and enhancing the safety of our K9, Krueger, I don't believe our program would be in the position it is in today. It is important that the Lions be recognized for their dedication. We would like to personally thank Larry and Gail Snethen, George Tice, and especially Pat, for heading up this

effort.

Because of the Vernonia Lions Club, Lions Club International and the continued support of our community, our program continues to be very effective in suppressing street drugs and crimes.

**Sgt. Mike Kay
Vernonia Police
Department**

State money not being used on priority needs

To The Editor:

The failure of the republicans in Congress and President Bush to approve a continuance of the O&C revenue which has traditionally come to many rural Oregon counties will soon result in large scale layoffs of county employees, and perhaps the slippage of some Oregon counties into bankruptcy. Here in Columbia County we are slated to lose \$1.9 million per year starting July 1st. According to the Oregonian this is approximately 23% of the Columbia County's general fund budget. This will involve the loss of somewhere between 10% and 23% of county employee positions, including sheriffs and many others. This

is a disaster both for the employees and their families as well as the rest of us who benefit from the services those employees perform. The state's response to all this is that it's too bad, but the state has no money to help these counties.

Yet at the same time this slaughter is going on at the county level, the state is planning to give, free for nothing, public funds amounting to \$6.3 million to a worldwide, billion dollar railroad conglomerate, so they can put in new rails on their private railroad track running along highway 30 in Columbia County. I put it to you that this is a suicidal use of public funds which ought to go instead to the counties to prevent large scale unemployment and loss of services.

If you agree you might want to give your state reps a call.

Yours truly,

**Michael F. Sheehan
Scappoose**

Cornelius event was successful and fun

To The Editor:

What a perfect, sunny day Saturday, June 21, was for the First Annual Celebrate Cornelius Community Festival. All that attended proclaimed the party a success. All age groups enjoyed the thrill of the monstrous inflated slide, courtesy of local Grand Rental Station, to the chills of the water balloon toss manned by Sky's The Lim-

it volunteers.

Mayor Bill Bash tried his hand at the hula-hoop competition but the Mayor's daughter was pretty sure the Cornelius Firemen were a little better at it. The cupcakes supplied by Grande Foods made the cake walk a hit with everyone. Cornelius Fire and Police Departments provided excellent tips on summer safety and interesting vehicle tours.

Sports Look's sumptuous dogs and lemonade created classic summertime atmosphere. Melodies wafted from the Karaoke machine and squeals of achievement at the coin toss. Boys and Girls Club staff performed creative face painting, and enthusiasm poured from the Cornelius Library, from set up to tear down. Every part of the celebration was fun filled.

The additional contributions from local businesses including Basco Burgers, Cedar Canyon, Cornelius Boosters and K's Gas and Mini Mart assisted in raising over \$300 for the Boys and Girls Club Satellite programs in Cornelius. Though the festival was promoted as a fundraiser, the true success of the event was bringing together the Cornelius Community in a positive way. Murphy's Furniture thanks all who participated and looks forward to making next year's celebration even bigger and better.

**Kathleen Murphy
Cornelius**

Ike Says . . .

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will also require that a large number of harvested animals' teeth be taken for age analysis, which most likely will mean that hunters will be required to turn in teeth. SAK will also need a fair number of antlerless deer be taken for an accurate understanding of what is going on with the antlerless component of the herd. This, quite frankly, will not be welcome news in what is viewed by many as an already suppressed deer herd in our local region.

While the proposed Black-tailed Deer Plan is a step in the right direction by ODF&W, it will succeed only if it is fully funded, if the appropriate data gaps and questions are accurately answered, and if sportspeople support the funding and believe in the results. That can be accomplished only by having a full and open partnership with the sport hunters in Oregon, something I don't think I see in the plan. ODF&W could create this support and trust by forming a 10-member committee - selected by the sportsmen of the state - that would review and oversee ODF&W's Blacktailed Deer Plan as it moves forward. Sportsmen could support the plan by pushing for an additional fee for research to ensure that the plan could be conducted correctly. ODF&W is currently pushing for a fairly steep fee increase; let's put some of the money toward this plan.

**Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter**
meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-428-7193 for location.

Where to Find Them

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Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters that include personal attacks on private citizens. Because of space limitations, preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

Opinion, continued

a new bill to offset county payments with funds from oil lease fees lost by three votes. Oddly, Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) loudly opposed the new bill because of the source of offset funds, although he joined DeFazio in a letter (Jan. 18, 2008) to Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, urging him to bring the bill to a vote and noting that the House had approved using that source four times previously.

Apparently Walden will try a new bill with offsetting funds from alternative energy tax credits. Of course, these were intended to fund increased research on alternative energy and reduce the need for oil.

This is a sad commentary on national priorities.