

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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4th of July Parade



The vehicles in Vernonia's 4th of July parade may be different from those in big city parades, but the feeling is the same and, here, everybody gets to join in the fun.

County seeks public input on Hazard Mitigation plan

Columbia County with assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is updating the County's existing Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The plan will review previously identified hazards, such as flood, severe weather and earthquakes, selected mitigation actions, and will include incorporated cities within the county. Additionally, it will identify the people and facilities potentially at risk, and ways to mitigate hazards. Public participation and the planning process will be documented as part of the project. The purpose

of the project is to ensure continued eligibility for the county and incorporated cities in the county, for mitigation project funding in the event of a declared disaster.

As part of the public involvement, the planning team is requesting public input on previously identified hazard information to ensure that any new hazards are identified and added to the plan. Submit public input to Frank Hupp, PA Coordinator, Columbia County, Emergency Management Department, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051, or email to Frank.Hupp@co.columbia.or.us. The planning team is

asking that any comments be provided by July 31, 2008.

The current Hazard Mitigation Plan can be seen at www.co.columbia.or.us/emgt. A newsletter can also be downloaded.

ODOT Open House on Hwy 26/47

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will hold a fourth open house on the Staley's Junction Interchange on Wednesday, July 23, with drop-ins welcome between 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Banks Public Library Community Room, 111 Market St., Banks.

This public open house will present the latest interchange design and the draft IAMP Ex-

It's time for Summer Fun!

Vernonia Jamboree

The Vernonia Friendship Jamboree will be August 1, 2, and 3 this year.

Events for Friday, August 1, include the First Friday Open Air Market on Madison Ave., Black Powder Rendezvous (through Sunday), Softball Tournaments (through Sunday), Izaak Walton Fishing Derby, Library Book Sale (through Saturday) and Tommy Disco (through Sunday).

Saturday, August 2, events include the Parade, Lawnmower Races, Rat Rod Revival & Classic Car Show, Erik Kesterson Memorial Motorcycle Show, Hands-On Art Show & Sale (through Sunday) and Zack Rumbolz Memorial Teen Dance.

The Valley Pastoral Association Worship Service starts off the events on Sunday, August 3, followed by Ridge Riders

Horse Gaming Show, and culminating in the Logging Show.

For more information, pick up a copy of *The Independent's* Jamboree guide, available the week of Jamboree.

Open Air Market

Banks will have their second Open Air/Farmers Market on Monday, July 21, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Neighborhood Park (Log Cabin), at Sunset and Main.

The Log Cabin will be open and the Friends of the Banks/Vernonia State Trail will have an information display in the cabin.

Additional dates for this event will be August 4 and 18. For more information or to request a vendor application, contact Susie at 503-679-9406 or Ray at 503-324-4502. Come see what's growing in Banks at the Open Air/Farmers Market.

Fire Level 2 restrictions in effect

An Industrial Fire Precaution Level 2 Closedown Order was issued by the Oregon Department of Forestry effective yesterday, July 16. The level 2 designation applies to all lands protected by the Northwest Oregon Forest Protection District, in regulated use areas NW-2, NW-3, and all forestland within one-eighth mile thereof.

Under Industrial Fire Pre-

caution Level 2, the use of fire or power-driven machinery in any operation area is prohibited unless it is in compliance with the following:

Partial Shutdown. The following activities are not permitted between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., except as noted:

1. Power saws, except those used at loading sites.
2. Cable yarding.
3. Blasting.
4. Welding or cutting metal.

The State Forester or an authorized representative may, in writing, approve a modification or waiver of these requirements.

These restrictions remain in effect until replaced by an additional State order.

For more information, go to <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/precautionlevel.shtml>

ecutive Summary. ODOT and consultant staff will be available to answer questions about the project and discuss the revised interchange design.

Information about the project is also available online at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/staleys or by calling Lili Gordon at 503-731-8247 or email Lili.D.Gordon@odot.state.or.us.