

From the City

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This fall the City intends to bring in Westside Trail Federation, a group of volunteer trail-builders with experience working in the Tillamook State forest, who are excited to help move this project forward.

Alta Planning and Design was hired to create a detailed plan for the Dirt Jump Park area of the project, a plan that was accepted by the Parks Committee on July 16th and by the City Council on August 4th. The Dirt Jump Park is expected to be built by Westside Trail Federation volunteers and interested locals. As was explained to the Parks Committee, the \$931 quoted in *The Independent* is actually being used to oversee construction of stunt features, so they are built to safe standards. By the way, the features will be secured with stakes and chains to pre-

vent them from moving again in the case of more flooding. The Parks Committee wasn't told this. As I understand it, the Lion's Club still intends to pour a concrete slab in the area for the long awaited Skateboard Park.

Even though this project is sponsored by the City, the project must still go through a regular permit process – the same permit process required of a private development.

In my experience, projects being spearheaded by volunteer efforts can take years to plan, and often just as long to implement. This project has been funded almost exclusively with grant funds that have been secured through the hard work of local volunteers. About \$36,000 has been received to date, with an additional \$247,000 pledged from Oregon State Parks. The Master Plan

process completed at the beginning of the project helped secure the grants.

The Mayor mentioned to me that the community is in need of economic stimulus and that youth and adults in this community need healthy outdoor activities and places to recreate. This past spring the Vernonia community identified "places and activities for youth" as a main priority during the "Vision 2020" process.

The Bicycle Skills Park is under way and has the potential to draw visitors and meet the needs of this community. The City's hope is that the community will continue to see the value of this project and support it. While the Skills Park will not, by itself, solve all of our economic problems, it will very likely attract more people to Vernonia who will spend money in area businesses.

Letters

From page 3

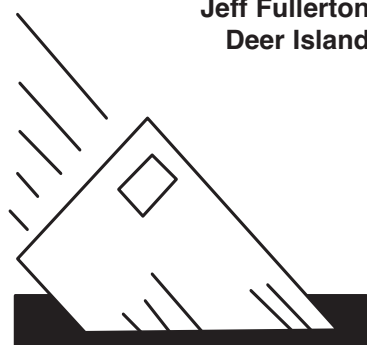
have the sheriff and his staff focusing their attention on...not chasing after reports of alleged illegal workers filed anonymously by some disgruntled competitor. Twice, in the short time I've lived here, this county has voted down levies to increase the number of deputies here, so I can't imagine there are a bunch of 'em sitting around, waiting for something to do. When your resources are limited, you've got to prioritize where you use them...and suddenly adding tasks that already belong to OTHER agencies just doesn't seem very smart to me.

Enforcement. This is the one that gets me itchiest. Fact is, no matter what Mayo's supporters tell you, there is no foolproof method in this country to verify if someone is a legal worker. Hell, the Social Security Administration just screwed up my replacement card...and they've

been taking money out of my paychecks for over thirty years. So, if these bills are put into effect, there's a very real chance that your law-abiding hairdresser, doctor, or local grocer could be shut down and fined because they hired someone – in good faith – based on false documents they were given. O because a perfectly valid SS card, for any of a number of reasons, fails to check out (I've known a couple of people who have had that happen, I'll bet it's pretty common).

For these and a bunch of other reasons, I think these measures are a bad idea...not to mention dangerous. There's no question that the immigration system in this country is flawed, and needs to be fixed – soon. But these measures are definitely not part of the solution. I'll have to accept that I'll be written into Mayo's Bad American book, because I'm definitely voting against these unaffordable, unenforceable laws.

Jeff Fullerton
Deer Island



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a condolence to the family, go to:
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Obituary

WENDELL F. JAMES

Wendell F. James, 85, Portland, died August 1, 2008. A gathering and interment will take place later.

Mr. James was born November 8, 1922, in Banks, to Forrest and Elva Coffee James. He graduated from Jefferson High School in Portland. He

served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In 1948, he married Lucille P. Sawyer. They made their home in Portland, Denver, Colorado and Forest Grove. He worked for Bell Telephone, Northwest Natural Gas, and later in shipping for Southern Pacific until he retired.

He was preceded in death by his wife.

Survivors include three daughters,

Linda Higginbotham of Aloha, Jackie Syrotchen of Spokane, Washington, and Jill James of Denver, Colorado; four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives in Hillsboro was in charge of arrangements.

STEVEN LEE MEYER

Steven Lee "Steve" Meyer, 58, Silverdale, Washington, died July 21, 2008. A celebration of life was held July 29, with The Reverend C. Eugene Sabin, retired, officiating.

Mr. Meyer was born October 4, 1949, in St. Helens, to Otto "Joe" and Hazel (Gouge) Meyer. When he was young the family moved to Forest Grove where he was raised. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era.

In 1977, he met his life partner, Brenda Jahnsen. They made their home in Garibaldi, Aloha and St. Helens. He later moved to Silverdale, Wash., to be near his daughter. He worked as a mechanic in the automotive repair industry.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include four children,

Melinda Lucero of Silverdale, Wash., Danny Hinkle of Portland, Raymond Jahnsen of St. Helens, and Tawyna Wheeler of Gaston; his mother of Cornelius; three brothers, Michael of Hillsboro, Roger of Vernonia, and Craig of Hillsboro; several grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to a local V.F.W. or American Legion Post.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Forest Grove was in charge of arrangements.

CARD OF THANKS

Our families would like to express our sincere thanks for all the support, prayers and sympathy shown to us due to the loss of our beloved one – Brandi Johnston. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Jim & Kim (mother) Brown & Casey (brother), Scott Johnston (father) and family members Cathy Howard (grandmother) Kelly Massing (aunt) & family Bill & Dorothy Howard

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