



THE INDEPENDENT

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Summer is here now that the dam has been installed on Vernonia's free flowing Rock Creek Swimmin' Hole. Jeff Burch and the Public Works crew said "Come on in, the water's fine!"

Driver unhurt in crash that caused power outage

Charles Colburn-Wiggins, Vernonia, escaped injury on June 29 when he lost control of the Toyota Previa he was driving up State Ave. towards Keasey. He was between E and G Streets when he swerved to avoid a small animal, lost control, and sheared off a power

pole. His vehicle landed on its side in the other lane facing the opposite direction.

Traffic was stopped briefly while the road was cleared. The vehicle was towed.

About 120 residents in the area lost power when the pole came down at about noon. The



Emergency responders stopped traffic on State Avenue until safe passage could be assured.

power pole was the only one in the area with capacitors, which require additional time to replace. West Oregon Electric Cooperative General Manager Marc Farmer said, "The two crews needed for the repair could not have been much farther away; one was in the Olney area and the other was at Hagg Lake." Power was restored just before 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy the beach, but don't go in the water

A public health advisory was issued June 29 due to higher-than-normal levels of bacteria in ocean waters at Hug Point State Park Beach in Clatsop County.

Increased pathogen and fecal bacteria levels in ocean waters can come from both shore and inland sources such as storm water runoff, sewer over-

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Missing boy is safely at home

Most people in the Vernonia area were awakened shortly before 4:00 a.m. Monday morning, when the Columbia Alarm Network (CAN) was activated by the Vernonia Police in response to a 9-1-1 call from a local family who found their front door open and their 10-year-old son missing at about 2:00 a.m. The CAN system is an automated emergency notification system that calls homes and gives recorded information.

All was well when the boy came back home on his own just after 7:00 a.m. About 150 people in the community came out to search for the boy, who went to bed with a fever the

night before and had been known to sleepwalk, but had never before left the house while asleep.

It appears the child was asleep when he left, and ended up in a nearby bushy area. He awoke cold and confused and ran home. He was checked out by paramedics and found to be in good shape, though still running a fever.

By 8:00 a.m. the CAN system had notified the community that the boy was home safe and the emergency was over.

More information about CAN is available on the 9-1-1 website at www.columbia911.com.

4th of July festivities in Vernonia

This year's 4th of July celebration in Vernonia includes expanded activities. The Great American Bash will include the Erik Kesterson Memorial Motorcycle Show (previously held during Jamboree) from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the Vernonia school grounds, along with a "Run What Ya Brung & Rat Rod Revival" Car Show.

Bridge Street will be closed for the parade, rescheduled to 3:00 p.m. to allow for the live music from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The parade will start on Weed Ave and disband on State Ave. No ATVs will be allowed in the parade. There will also be kids games and a dunk tank on the school grounds. The Vernonia Boosters will be serving burgers and hot dogs in the Snack Shack starting at 4:00 p.m., and other food ven-

dors will be offering snacks and meals.

Fireworks will start after sundown. Remember to keep your pets inside during the fireworks so they don't get scared and run off.

Portions of the day's activities will benefit OSSOM kids, Vernonia Youth Athletics and the Vernonia Police K-9 program.

Family Fun Festival in Banks on July 4th

The Banks 4th of July Family Fun Festival will start at 4:00 p.m. at Sunset Park.

There will be food, children's activities and music, along with car racing at the Sunset Speedway starting at 6:00 p.m.

Fireworks start at 10:00 p.m. More information is on page 24.

— CORRECTION —

The cougar picture on page 1 of the June 17 issue should have been attributed to Kristine Torres, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo. *The Independent* apologizes for this oversight. The article that went with the picture is on page 15 of this issue.

