

Friendship Jamboree Pull-out Guide inside

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THE INDEPENDENT

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A stunning red sun dominated area skies at dusk on Sunday, August 1.

Hot, dry weather triggers increase in fire safety restric-

"We're into that part of the fire season where fire starts are more likely in our forests, on our own properties and within or adjacent to our communities," reported Mike Simek, Unit Forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Human-caused fires continue to be the top cause of forest fires in our area. Residents and forest users will see fluorescent orange Regulated Use signs being posted. These reflect the public use restrictions now in effect on all forestlands.

Simek also pointed out that most private timberlands have tighter restrictions or even closures, so it's always best to check with landowners and the local ODF office about current restrictions. All landowners, residents and visitors are asked to use extreme caution when recreating, traveling and working in grass, brush and forested areas.

The following public use restrictions went into effect, on July 23, and apply to all private, state and federal forestland

protected by ODF within the Northwest Oregon Forest Protection District:

1. Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in closed vehicles on improved roads.

2. Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except at designated locations. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.

3. Non-industrial chain saw use is prohibited, except as waived by the Forester (contact

Helmer appointed to Council

The Vernonia City Council has a new councilor, since interviewing and seating Catherine Helmer at their July 19 meeting. Helmer was the only applicant for the position vacated by Brett Costley's resignation. Helmer, who is secretary of the Parks Committee, a member of Vernonia Pride, involved with First Friday activities, and has been attending city council meetings, decided to apply for the open position to get more involved at the council level. After answering a series of questions by council, Helmer was selected and then sworn in by Pro Tem City Administrator Bill Haack. She then took her place on the podium to serve at the rest of the meeting.

Helmer's first vote was rather historic when she, along with the rest of council, voted to approve the Vernonia school district annexation and zone



Catherine Helmer

designation and the plan/zone map amendment. This vote took place after the public hearing and moves the school siting project one step closer to groundbreaking.

Another vote came after a public hearing on the new sign ordinance. Public hearings held this past spring on the sign ordinance, were instrumental in the formation of the Downtown Association, which was approved at the August 2 council

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local ODF office regarding waivers).

4. Use of motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and all terrain vehicles, is prohibited, except on improved roads.

5. Possession of the following fire fighting equipment is required while traveling, except on state and county roads: One gallon of water or one operational 2-1/2 pound or larger fire extinguisher, and one shovel having a handle 26 inches or more in length and a blade ap-

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Fireworks Show

There will be a fireworks display on Saturday, August 7, after the concert at Hawkins Park.

This notice is to inform pet owners so they can take adequate precautions to keep their pets safe during the loud noise associated with fireworks.