



THE INDEPENDENT

Vol. 25, No. 11

The Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley for Over 25 years

June 2, 2011



Vernonia High School's Leadership Class presented Jaden Krieger and his family with a check for \$2,799.74 they raised for the young Banks cancer patient. See full story on page 11

Kay appeals DPSST vote to revoke certification as law enforcement officer

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) Police Policy Committee, on May 19, voted unanimously to revoke the police certification of Vernonia Sergeant Michael Kay. This is the next step in pulling Kay's certification, after he refused to voluntarily relinquish his certification based on the DPSST investigation outlined in a letter to Kay on March 15.

DPSST trains and upholds professional standards (with certifications) for police, fire, corrections, parole and probation, communications (such as 9-1-1), even private security and private investigators.

Once a certification is revoked by DPSST, the person cannot work in any job that requires that certification.

DPSST's summary to the Police Policy Committee, dated May 19, from Professional

Standards Investigator/Coordinator Theresa M. King, listed the following ten items for their case against Kay, with Kay's responses;

1) That Kay misrepresented his personal knowledge of whether two individuals completed community service in a document he authored and gave to the Vernonia Justice Court.

Kay responded that he had been uncomfortable writing a letter that was not factual, but did so at the direction of Judge Thompson and former Vernonia Chief Frank Grace. Grace's response to DPSST was that he was passing along a message from Judge Thompson, who needed to close out the deferred sentence and needed information from Kay in order to do so. Grace made clear that he would not have accepted or approved documentation that was not factual in content and he did not recall Kay voicing any concern about the matter.

2) Kay was untruthful with two investigators (regarding the community service issue listed in 1 above) hired by the City of Vernonia.

Kay wrote to DPSST that the second, "investigation" was stopped by our City Administrator Bill Haack before it was completed for financial reasons." Haack stated to DPSST, that the investigative report, "was not stopped for any reason." Haack also told DPSST that after he and Grace read the first investigative report, Grace recommended Kay's termination and after learning that Judge Thompson had sent a letter to DPSST of his concerns about Kay's untruthfulness, the second investigation was

Electronic speed limit signs in effect on Highway 26

Electronic speed limit signs have been in effect on U.S. Highway 26 (Sunset Highway) near Oregon Highway 47 (Nehalem Highway) since May 24. The speed limits in this area will change based on traffic volumes. Motorists need to be aware of the changing speeds, as Oregon State Police and the Washington County Sheriff's Office will enforce the posted speeds.

The speed limit will vary from 30 to 50 mph, depending on traffic volume. Speeds will not change more than once every 15 minutes.

U.S. Highway 26 is a popular route to the Oregon coast and sees periods of heavy traffic,

particularly on weekends in the summer months. During these periods, motorists on OR Highway 47 turning left (eastbound) onto U.S. Highway 26 are finding the maneuver unsafe and difficult.

Sensors installed in the road control the variable speed limit signs and will slow traffic on U.S. Highway 26 in both directions as motorists approach OR Highway 47 during periods of heavy congestion. Slowing traffic on the highway provides a safer environment for motorists turning left, reducing the potential for accidents.

This variable speed system is the first of its kind in Oregon, although variable speed limit

signs have been implemented in many other states. ODOT is implementing this new technology as an interim solution to the turning problems at the U.S. Highway 26 and OR Highway 47 intersection (also known as Staley's Junction). Future plans call for a new freeway interchange at this location.

Open Air Market new time, place

Vernonia Open Air Market, a project of the VCLC, starts its 2011 season in a new location on Saturday, June 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Madison Ave, between US Bank and Grey Dawn Gallery.

The market also moved from Friday nights to Saturday mornings. It will now feature hot donuts, breakfast items and lunch items. Yummm donuts... There will also be honey, eggs, plants and craft items, plus other items from local businesses. Did they say donuts? Come see what the Vernonia Open Air Market has to offer and, if you can't make it this week, you can come by any Saturday from now until October 1.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, contact Kathy Larsen at 503-449-3591 or at oamvernonia@gmail.com.

First Friday and Contra Dancing

June First Friday will be on June 3 at the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Join your neighbors and friends in celebrating arts, entertainment, and culture in our community. You can shop the local artists and crafters, decorate some cookies, have a light snack and listen to live music.

After First Friday, you can also learn how to Contra Dance at the Grange. Lesson at 7:30 p.m. and the dance is from 8:00 to 11 p.m. Live music provided

by Basin Billies.

Vernonia First Friday works in partnership with Vernonia Hands-on Art Center as a revenue generating entity and community collaborator. First Friday is dedicated to celebrating the arts, bringing people together in downtown Vernonia to meet neighbors, exchange information, skills and resources, as well as reinforce a sense of community among different interest groups in and around Vernonia. And, most importantly, to have a good time!

Join the Linear Trail Brave Run for BES

The Linear Trail Brave Run, a 5k and 10k run/walk, will be held Saturday, June 4, starting at 8:00 a.m. with check-in and registration at the Banks High School track.

The Kids Dash (up to age 12) starts at 8:30 a.m. and the 5k and 10k start at 9:00 a.m.

This is a fundraiser for Banks Elementary School.

Vernonia High School Graduation
June 4, 2011 * 2:00 p.m.
Greenman Field

Banks High School Graduation
June 10, 2011 * 7:00 p.m.
Banks High School