

# The INDEPENDENT

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## Opinion

### It's time for Jamboree!

The Vernonia Friendship Jamboree was started 55 years ago as a way for people to get together and reconnect after so many people left to find work elsewhere when the mill closed for good. It's a time for old friends to reconnect, families to reunite, and it's a time to make new friends.

We want to send a BIG Thank You to Tony Hyde, Kelly Baska, Lindsay Baska, and Robbie Eide for bringing the Logging Show back to Jamboree after its absence in 2010. Hyde for holding the banner, and the others for taking up the banner and carrying it into the future so Jamboree attendees can continue to enjoy the show, hopefully for years to come.

In many ways Vernonia is still a small town where people know each other and smile at both friends and strangers when they pass on the street. Vernonia has its share of problems, as do all communities, but the tone in Vernonia is usually friendly and helpful. We hope every person who comes to Jamboree is treated in a friendly, helpful way so that is the impression our guests take home with them.

In that vein, we'd like to welcome new people to the community and old timers back for a visit. There is plenty to do with a parade, a fishing derby, a cruisin', music, food, a rendezvous, horse gaming, library book sale, lawnmower races, softball games, movies, market events, a talent show, and new this year a Diesel Power Show & Shine. There's lots to see, plenty to do, and new and old friends to meet.

"We're right here, there's no need to speed" is the theme of the 55th Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show. So, take your time when driving in or out of town and you'll get where you're going safe and sound.

We understand that, for many, drinking always seems to be a big part of Jamboree. The bars do a very good business during the three-day celebration, and that's fine...but please, don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver so you can continue to swap stories of past Jamborees for many more years to come.

We hope everyone enjoys our town and its hospitality during the 2011 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree. The food is good, the events are free, and fun is just waiting for all ages.



### Ike Says . . .

By Dale Webb, member Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League



This year's wet spring has brought another year of higher and cooler-than-normal stream conditions in the local area. The Nehalem River is running about 25% higher than average, according to both the upper and lower stream flow gauges. This is very good news for salmonids and for fishermen.

So, why is it important to all sportspeople that big game populations in the entire state do well? Because, if regions of our state suffer population losses, the sportspeople who used to hunt those areas will move to where you hunt.

The Saddle Mountain unit is a classic case in point. This year, for the first time that I can recall, 1st choice applicants were turned away for both bull elk seasons. Years ago these tags were a given, and many people picked up their tags as second choice applicants. Then the tag numbers were whittled down and, if you wanted a Saddle Mt. tag, you had better put in as a 1st choice. This year, 70 resident 1st choice applicants were turned away for the first season and five resident 1st choice applicants were turned away from the second season. No, these are not large numbers, but don't expect them to get any better.

The first season for bull elk in Saddle Mt. has always been in higher demand and, thus, has more 1st choice applicants. This year was actu-

ally slightly lower than last year, with 1372 residents applying as their 1st choice. The second season saw only 1303 residents apply as their 1st choice. The number of tags allocated for each season is 1320.

I can hear some people saying that my numbers don't add up, oh but they do! Many of us forget two things when it comes to the draw—people who have points in the draw, and non-residents. We must remember that people with points in the draw will be totally drawn out as long as there are more tags than people with points, which is the case for both seasons in the Saddle Mt. unit. So those people are drawn out in the 75% pool, which also includes non-residents if they have points. The remainder of the 75% pool of tags is drawn out with people who had no points, but put down 1st choice on their application. Once the 75% pool of tags is drawn out, the remaining applicants go into the 25% pool of tags that is left. Again, 1st choice applicants are drawn first, in the case of both bull elk seasons in the Saddle Mt. unit, this draws out the tag allocations totally. People who put in for these hunts as a second choice were completely out of luck.

So, for hunters who are relying on the odds, here they are: 5% of resident 1st choice first season hunters without any points were not drawn. The second season hunters came in at .4%, so there is a slim chance that you will not draw this tag. Your chances of making the draw depends upon the number of applicants and ...with the continued decline in tags in eastern Oregon and diminishing cow tags here on the

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