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Letters

Yep, that's life!

To the Editor:

Upon Growing Older:

When you get about my age, your eyes get weak.

You forget what you were thinking, when you start to speak.

Your hands don't work as good, neither do your feet.

You don't recognize, half the people that you meet.

You're always asking, "What?" whenever people speak.

You have pains everywhere, and your kidneys both get weak.

Will things get any better? History says never.

But there is one consolation. Nobody lives forever.

**R. Dee Stevens
Vernonia**

Sponsors are vital to life of Logging Show

To the Editor:

Thank you 2011 Vernonia Logging Show Sponsors.

The following sponsors keep the show going through their generosity: Longview Timber

Company, Pape' Machinery, Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Company, Meyer's Auto Body, Inc., Soderback & Daughters Trucking, Mike Pihl Logging Co., Inc., Gwin & Sons Logging Co., Inc., Five Star Builders, Inc., Archie Dass Logging, Inc., KLS Surveying, Inc., Vernonia Auto Parts, Shaw Supply, Wilcox & Flegel, Weller & Sons Trucking, West Oregon Electric Cooperative, Wood's Logging Supply, Cowlitz River Rigging, Oregon Chain, Lucky Logger, Whit-Log Trailers, All In Pub & Eatery, Vernonia's Voice, Precision Engraving, US Bank, Wauna Federal Credit Union, Dolly Keenon, Original Productions, Madsen's Shop & Supply Inc., Vernonia Realty & Insurance, Vernonia Public Works, The Independent, Diane Dillard, Vernonia Mini Mart, Vernonia Sentry Market and Vernonia True Value.

We would also like to thank everyone who volunteers their time to keep the show going!

**Vernonia Logging Show
Committee**

Public service sans cameras or audience

To the Editor:

Saturday morning, July 30th (the Saturday before Jamboree

Weekend), my husband and I were enjoying ourselves, going to Saturday Market and a few yard sales around town. Just taking the day off to relax from the work and stress of the upcoming week...getting ready for Jamboree. When I saw something that made me truly humble.

As we were driving home, we were passing between the new West Oregon construction site and the library, and what did I see ... our Mayor, her husband and daughter sweeping the street. No one was there to see this act of service. At the time all I could think of was to yell as we drove past, "Good Job Josette!" to which she replied with a smile and, "Thank You." Just thought I'd

put that out there. Just an observation.

**Randal Harvey
Vernonia**

Ed. note: They were also spied spreading fresh barkdust on all of the library landscaped areas over a two day period.

Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters with personal attacks on private citizens. Preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

Ike Says . . .

From page 2

west side...the competition for tags will only get worse in my opinion.

Be sure and bring the kids to the Izaak Walton League's youth fishing derby at Vernonia Lake on Friday the 5th. Registration opens at 4:00 p.m., fishing is from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter**

meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-429-7193 for location.

Governor seeks Supreme Court forest road review

Governor Kitzhaber, on July 25, requested the Oregon Attorney General's office to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that forest roads require individual water discharge permits under the federal Clean Water Act.

Governor Kitzhaber considers certain portions of the ruling by the federal Court of Appeals to be legally flawed and is concerned that the ruling could create increased economic, social, and environmental instability across Oregon's important forest management sector. Specifically, the Governor believes the Ninth Circuit's ruling wrongly mandates a permitting approach that should have been left to the discretion of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and states and effectively overturns a rule that has been in place for 35 years.

"The Clean Water Act stipu-

lates that challenges to rules adopted to implement the act must be brought within 120 days of the adoption of the rule," Kitzhaber said. "Allowing a challenge to proceed now, in one state, 35 years after the rule's adoption, throws the timber industry and agencies into confusion; upsets established expectations; and will lead to different rules in different parts of the county – contrary to congressional intent."

Oregon Board of Forestry chair John Blackwell agreed with the Governor's decision to ask the Supreme Court to review the ruling.

"Clean water is a crucial benefit of well-managed forests," said John Blackwell. "Roads are critical to that management, and we need sound rules about the construction and use of roads in forests. But that's a matter best addressed by natural resources agencies,

not the courts."

The Governor strongly believes that improvements in water quality are needed, but that those improvements will most effectively be achieved through constructive interactions between policy makers, regulatory agencies, forest landowners and managers, and other interests.

"I'm not arguing with the outcome sought by the plaintiffs in this litigation: to improve forest road management and curtail impacts that result in harmful discharges to streams and degradation of water quality and fish habitat," said Governor Kitzhaber. "However, we are at a point in the history of our management of forest lands where we need to develop stability, consensus, and collaboration, not management by lawsuit. Dramatically expanding citizen lawsuits risks accelerating the conversion of our

forest land to development, costing us both in terms of harvest revenue and environmental values, as well."

The Oregon Department of Justice will prepare a petition for the Supreme Court's review in the coming months.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden has decided to pursue a legislative response to the Ninth Circuit's decision. While Governor Kitzhaber recognizes that a narrow amendment to the Clean Water Act may ultimately be necessary, he does not believe that this should be our starting point. "Before seeking a legislative solution we should fully explore an administrative resolution of the issues created by the Ninth Circuit's decision, including approaches that improve water quality while minimizing or avoiding the requirement for individual permits," said Governor Kitzhaber.