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Letters

Thanks for support of Vernonia Bands

To the Editor:
Vernonia Band Program says THANK YOU Vernonia!
Vernonia Band Boosters would like to thank Lisa Brewer and the Booster Club for allowing us open the snack shack during Jamboree. Thanks to students Alex W., Sarah W., and Daniel S. and parents Stacy Adams, Camrin Eyrrick and Betsy Miller for arriving at 7 am to serve breakfast burritos. Thanks to the parade committee for again allowing the combined middle and high school marching band plus some to participate. Thank you to Lauyrn McCroskey for marching. And special thank you to drum majorette Kournie A. for leading the band in the parade and Stacy Adams for dusting off her clarinet and marching along. The band programs appreciate all the support we receive from our community.

Vernonia Band Boosters

Jamboree Cruise In was a huge success

To the Editor:
Nehalem Valley Speed and Beauty would like to thank all those who participated in the 2011 Jamboree Cruise In. This show would not be possible without our sponsors, participants, family and friends. With your generosity and enthusiasm, our 20th Anniversary Cruise In was a huge success. Thank you!

**Glenda DeLemos
Nehalem Valley Speed
and Beauty**

Family grateful for response to fire loss

To the Editor:
God bless you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Once again this wonderful community banded together to help a family in need. As most of you know, our home burned to the ground Saturday, July 30, at 10:00 a.m. We praise the Lord – no one was home at the time.

The outpouring of love, kindness, and generosity is overwhelming and humbling. We will be forever grateful to all the members of this community

and Vernonia Christian Church. Within a few hours of the fire we were given an awesome 3 bedroom home fully furnished, with clothes and shoes and a kitchen full of food.

So many of you dropped everything to come to our aid. What a wonderful thing God did when he put Vernonia on the map.

Thank you again,
**Steve, Lois & Kane Losli
Vernonia**

Thanks for help with kids' fishing derby

To the Editor:
A big thanks to the people who helped with this year's Izaak Walton fish derby.

Rebecca McGaugh, Jack and Jessey Lindsley, Marvin Long, Bill Wilcoxon, Bob Scroggins, DeDe Webb, Donna Webb, and Bill Yoe (Auctioneer).

Thanks again,
**Don Webb
Vernonia**

9/11 responders are shortchanged by law

To the Editor:
According to an article dated Sunday, July 3 2011, *First Responders/Health Effects – 9/11 Zadroga Health Care Law Goes Into Effect*, by Alex Katz, NYDailyNews.com: "It took years of lobbying and partisan bickering, but the 9/11 Zadroga Act to help ailing Ground Zero responders finally took effect today.

The law provides \$4.3 billion in guaranteed federal funding to cover health costs and financial compensation for emergency responders, recovery workers, volunteers, and residents who were affected by the attacks almost 10 years ago."

In his article Katz quotes Carolyn Maloney, "This is a historic milestone, not only for the more than 36,000 Americans who lost their health as a result of 9/11 and are in the program, but also for our moral obligation to care for those who rise to the defense of our nation in a time of war."

Katz also goes on to explain that "the original bill's price tag was scaled back from \$7.4 billion as part of a compromise with conservatives in both par-

ties, which allowed the legislation to pass through Congress and get President Obama's signature in early January."

Katz then quotes NY Mayor Bloomberg in the following statement, "There's no way to think that we can ever fully repay the thousands of first responders who fearlessly charged into the towers as others rushed out." He added, "But we can give them the care they need and the care that they deserve."

Katz informs us that the law was named for NYPD detective James Zadroga, who died of 9/11-related illness and that the funding is set to expire in five years.

Now this bill being passed made headline news all over the United States. I chose this one simple article because I felt it summarized the events well, and used it to provide a brief history of what is currently being done for our Heroes of 9/11.

I feel that the fact that it took years to implement this legislation, and that there is an expiration date to this bill and to the health care now being provided for the Heroes of 9/11 is wrong, but what is horribly wrong is what Katz did not mention that was part of the \$7.4 Billion Dollar compromise cutback. Cancer is not covered under the 9/11 Zadroga Health Care Law!

The First Responders of this Country, our United States Military (All Branches), Firefighters, Paramedics, Law Enforcement Officers, to mention only the obvious, are the only reason this country we live in is as safe and strong as it is. Without them, we would not have the protection, security, nor the Freedom we take for granted everyday. Can you imagine a life in this country without our First Responders? I cannot!

While I realize that our Government has spent years doing its best to divide us with fear and propaganda, the one thing our Government cannot ever do is take away our Heroes!

Our First Responders, no matter what our Government does or does not do, will continue to do their job, regardless of pay or benefits because... many, if not most, are volunteers who put their lives out

there for us daily simply because for them, it's the right thing to do. It's what makes them our Heroes!

Seemingly...and so sadly, despite our politicians statements to the contrary, our Government Officials seem to view our Heroes as expendable. I know I do not feel that way, and I am confident that the rest of America does not feel that way either, so please support our Heroes by taking action now on their behalf. We do have the power to make a difference, just like the men and women who save our lives and protect our freedoms do every day, by simply getting involved.

How? There are many examples throughout history to help you decide which is best for you to do in order to get involved, but at a minimum, please let your voices be heard! The Brave Men and Women of this Great Country deserve nothing less for making this country in fact GREAT!

Please write your Congressman and State Representatives today...the Men and Women who risked their lives on 9/11 to save ours can't wait any longer for the health care they deserve. It's time we Americans as a whole rush to the aide of our Heroes!

Sincerely,
**Marie Botchie
Rainier**

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.

NOTICE

The INDEPENDENT publishes on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Because August has five Wednesdays, there will be three weeks before the next issue, on September 7, 2011.

The deadline for the Sept. 7 issue is Friday, Sept. 2.