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Letters

Vendors plan return for next Jamboree

To the Editor:
Some time ago my husband and I attended the Friendship Logging Jamboree as vendors. We have attended events in the past, but none can compare with the exceptional organization and team effort we witnessed during the three days of celebration.

Vernonia has the welcome home spirit of yesteryear we so much enjoyed.

As vendors we could not have gotten better service, friendlier wait staff and better food from the Black Bear Café.

We extend a special thanks to everyone involved in making this event a great success; the Lions Club, Pihl Logging and many others.

A very special commendation to Joann Glass for above and beyond hard work and dedication.

We look forward to sharing in the wonderful festivities next year.

Sincerely your new friends,
**DONGII Designer Jewelry
Don and Gigi Grasseth
Longview, Washington**

Please, please slow down on Timber Road

To the Editor:
I live along Timber Road, and twice in two days we were almost hit by log trucks being driven very fast down our road. However, it's not just the loggers who are driving too fast on Timber Road - other drivers are going too fast, as well.

Because of their animals and young children, some of our neighbors are also unhappy with the fast traffic. We think 45 mph would be a much safer speed, not 60 mph or more.

For those of you driving on Timber Road, please, please slow down - for the safety of all of us who live along Timber and for the sake of others traveling on the road as well.

Thank you,
**Lulu Lamping
Vernonia**

Summer program an outstanding success

To the Editor:
Value of Feeding a Community - 2011 Vernonia Summer Meals Program Pilot Project
How does a program meas-

ure success? By the number of kids fed or the enduring collaboration of community volunteers and agencies to provide quality programming to our youth of Vernonia.

Meals Prepared = 3600
Volunteers = 46

Well, we can start with the numbers of youth meals prepared and served. Unexpectedly, Vernonia Summer Meal Program (VSMP) also prepared and served 783 meals to adults.

At the height of the VSMP, 195 meals were served and the average was 100 per day for the 44 days of the program. This is 25 percent over our initial survey results.

In the prevention world, the success of this program can be measured by many things. The number of people attending is the output, but the potential influence on our kids is a much needed outcome.

For those of you who utilized the VSMP we thank you: Summer School, Vacation Bible School, Daycare Providers, Sports Camps, Foster families, families and individuals. Next year we hope to include Camp Wilkerson as a site for the week of camp.

The VSMP planners and staff would like to thank many people and organizations: Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon \$4,400 Grant for equipment, transportation and staffing; Pioneer Baptist Fellowship, the fiscal agent for grant and plethora of volunteers; St. Helen's Summer Meal Program for menu, meal preparation and encouragement; Vernonia School District for use of the site; Vernonia Food Bank for bread and the occasional sweet for the volunteers; Vernonia Prevention Coalition for materials, copies and purchase of food, handler's cards and payment of background checks; Skein Slayers for yarn and materials; Vernonia Library for Tuesday programs; Hands on Art for Wednesday programs; Master Gardeners for Thursday programs and volunteers; Vernonia Foursquare Church for Friday programs and volunteers; Foster Grand Parent Program for mentoring and support; Dewey Deweber for clowning around and giving us magic; DeAnna Pearl for grant writing and form development; Cathy

Meyer VSMP Food Coordinator, Nic Welch VSMP Volunteer Coordinator, Ron Welch VSMP Transporter (2400 miles to deliver meals), Gina Fields VSMP Positive promoter, Heather Lewis for gathering up the pieces and the recycling program, Barb Carr for volunteer background checks, Carol Senn for warming up the place and making coffee, Officer Brent Thompson for eating with the kids and showing that cops are cool, Vernonia Rural Fire District for bringing out the truck, gear and people; and the Three Little Pigs who saved 66 buckets of slop from the garbage can.

Finally, a huge thank you to the documented 55 volunteers who tirelessly showed up every week to help set up, serve, clean and put away during the 44 days of the Vernonia Summer Meals Program. Two thumbs up for those of you who showed up on Fridays to mop, scrub and clean to prepare for Sunday's PBF church and Monday's food service.

We have already begun planning for next year. If you would like more information please contact me at 503-369-7370.

**DeAnna Pearl
Vernonia Prevention
Coalition**

August First Friday enjoyed by many

To the Editor:
First Friday in August brought crafters, artists and visitors to the Scout Cabin for an evening of shopping, visiting neighbors and enjoying the guitar and vocals of Lowell Mitchell. Kids decorated magic wands, smashed a piñata and frosted cookies.

Thank you to the many vendors and visitors who participated, and to the volunteers that made the evening run like clockwork. Special thanks to Jack Finzel for the mini-engine demonstration and to artists Diane Coughlin, Sally Harrison, Walter Neuman, and Dave Anderson for their paintings of historic "Vernonia Through the Artist's Eye".

**Diana Peach
First Friday**

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

The Pacific Salmon Treaty allocates a large share of Nehalem Chinook to these fisheries and allows for a total escapement of only 6800 Chinook back to the Nehalem system. The spawning escapement goal is only 6800 fish, so if the northern fisheries are overly successful, the local fishery either has to be curtailed or restricted. The problem with this allocation system is that there is no reward for Oregon fishery managers to restrict the fishery and try to build the run to higher numbers, because the PST will simply allocate higher numbers of our fish to the northern fisheries and continue our 6800 spawning escapement goal.

The trouble with trying to manage this fishery so tightly is that we then play the dangerous game of having a fishery when 100% of the spawning escapement goal will not be met. Sometimes the population estimates and escapement goals are not met and the runs end up short of the goal. This means that we simply did not allow enough fish to spawn to fully seed the habitat in the Nehalem system, which is what happened in 2008.

It would be beneficial for our federal legislators to revisit the PST; states should be rewarded for rebuilding runs of fish that will eventually benefit all fishery interests.

**Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter**
meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Call 503-429-7193 for location.