

Larsen is winner of Storefront Contest



Kathy Larsen, standing in front of her Made In Vernonia store, holding the certificate she won (along with \$100) in the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce Storefront Contest.

The Vernonia Chamber of Commerce held a Storefront Contest before Jamboree. The storefronts were judged on; sidewalk cleanliness, window cleanliness, signage, easy access into business, maintenance of flowers and ornamentation (if any), and the window display. The judging was done on Thursday, August 2.

The contest was open to all downtown district businesses, though only to chamber members were eligible for the \$100 grand prize. There were three judges, who had to have no affiliation with any of the businesses. The contest was managed by Lisa Edgar of Vernonia Florist.

The winner was Made in Vernonia. Owner Kathy Larsen promptly donated the \$100 to Vernonia Cares. The runnerup was Black Bear Coffee Company and honorable mention went to Vernonia Florist.

The chamber plans to make this a semi-annual event, held before Jamboree and at Christmas time.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Can you tell I'm enjoying myself? Hehe.

Bits & Bites is on vacation – not in a sunny spot, though. Rather I'm in the hospital because my MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) is back. I had Stage 1 surgery on August 8 and Stage 2 surgery on August 9. Plus, I woke up on August 9 with my knee swollen to the size of a basketball, well not quite, but it was bad. So, then they had to do an MRI on that.

Stamp expert coming to Astoria, get appointment by calling now

Bob Beal, manager of Harmer-Schau Philatelic Auction (www.harmerschau.com), will answer questions about stamps and stamp collections, from 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 18, at Clatsop Coin, 1008 Commercial Street in Astoria.

To make an appointment with the stamp expert, call Scott McClaine at Clatsop Coin at 503-298-3898. Beal will also hold a general informational

session, open to the public, at 2:00 p.m.

HHW day slated for August 25

The next Columbia County Household Hazardous Waste day is scheduled for Saturday, August 25, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, at the Columbia County Transfer Station in St. Helens.

24 Years Ago This Month

The August 25, 1988, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on the front page:

Five more Enterprise Zones will be designated in the state, and the City of Vernonia should continue its efforts to obtain one of the five, Columbia County Commissioner Mike Sykes told the city council at their August meeting.

Sykes also offered the assistance of George Cress, who has been hired to fill the position of county economic development coordinator. The council agreed that they want to pursue the matter and are having Recorder Don Dunaway continue the process. If the city,

which is officially designated an "economically lagging area," can become an Enterprise Zone it will be able to offer substantial tax incentives to new or expanding business, if those businesses meet the criteria for developing new jobs.

Twelve counties and fourteen subcounty areas remain on the list of economically lagging areas. Columbia County, except for the Vernonia area, has been removed from the list because its two Enterprise Zones have created enough jobs to change the designation.

With the permission of the state Department of Environmental Quality, the Vernonia landfill will accept fifty to sixty truckloads of drilling mud from

Arco Gas & Oil. The mud is used as a lubricant in the drilling process and its sludge-like consistency will make good fill, said Bob Prohaska, who operates the dump under a contract with the city. Each truckload will contain approximately 4,500 gallons of mud. The job will be finished by October 1.

Police Chief Phil Jacobus reported that R.S. Hunteman has repeatedly asked the city to stop an auto repair operation across the street from his Rose Avenue residence.

Investigation shows that it's

not a commercial repair shop, Jacobus said, but is being used by friends who share tools and space while working on their own vehicles. The other neighbors say there is no problem with noise or traffic, he added.

Dunaway read a letter from Hunteman that said he would settle for a 5 p.m. closing of the activity.

The council commended Public Works Director Mike Smith and Police Sergeant Jim Walters for their volunteer work as coaches of the Vernonia midget baseball team that placed third in the state.

Nancy Burch, who was the unanimous choice of the city Library Board, was accepted as the new city librarian.

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