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THE INDEPENDENT

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October 3, 2012



Salmon have arrived in time for Salmon Festival. This picture taken on Rock Creek north of the Rock Creek Bridge near Hawkins Park.

Dry weather means forest closures to deer hunters

With the rifle deer season now open, ODFW and Oregon Department of Forestry are warning hunters they may find more private forestlands closed this year due to the high fire danger.

"This year, it's more important than ever that hunters check for closures before heading afield and follow fire restrictions," said Tom Thornton, ODFW game program manager.

Mike Dykzeul with the Oregon Forest Industries Council estimates that 50 percent more private lands are closed this year than at the same time last year.

Forestland managers say forest vegetation is extremely dry. Although light rainfall has fallen in some areas, moisture content in vegetation in west-

ern Oregon ranges from 10-20 percent, while east of the Cascades it is in single digits. "Under these parched conditions, any fire started could spread rapidly," said Dan Postrel, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

ODF keeps a list of landowner closures on its website (see below). It changes frequently and lands could be opened if Oregon gets some significant wet weather, though current forecasts aren't predicting rain. Hunters should check back before the season opener or the day they plan to hunt for the latest information. http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/fire/corporate_closure.aspx.

Hunters who don't see their local landowner listed should call them directly.

Crash on Hwy. 47 sent four to hospital

On September 25, at approximately 6:19 p.m., a 2000 Hyundai four-door driven by Nicole A. Meglen, 21, from Vernonia, was northbound on Highway 47 near milepost 66 when it crossed the centerline. A southbound 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle with two occupants veered right to avoid the oncoming vehicle and crashed into a ditch. A 1992 Volkswagen Jetta driven by William D. Mashburn, 22, from

Forest Grove, following the motorcycle, crashed head-on with the Hyundai.

Meglen and Mashburn were transported by Metro West Ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. Safety restraint use information was not available for this release.

The motorcycle occupants were transported by Metro West Ambulance to OHSU. Operator Stanley C. Miles, 47,

from Hillsboro, was treated and released. Passenger Kathryn A. McNeil, 59, from Hillsboro, received serious injuries. Both were wearing protective helmets.

The highway was blocked for about two hours following the accident. Vernonia Rural Fire Department, Vernonia Police Department, Washington County Sheriff's Office, and ODOT assisted the Oregon State Police at the scene.

Can you help this elk hunter?

Mark Stewart, a Vernonia resident, is looking for help from an area landowner to help make a dream come true.

Stewart's father has terminal cancer and limited mobility. He would like to go elk hunting

once more but will need a private landowner to allow him access due to his mobility issues. Any landowner who would like to help can contact Stewart at 503-410-6243.

Dog lovers: beware of salmon poisoning

Dogs that eat even a small amount of uncooked Salmon, Trout, or Steelhead are at risk of getting potentially fatal Salmon Poisoning disease.

The cause is a microscopic organism that sometimes lives in a parasite that can infect the salmon family. The germ is killed by cooking, freezing or hot smoking fish.

If a dog eats infected fish, symptoms start from a few days to five days later. Symptoms include decreased energy level, increased temperature, loss of appetite, swollen lymph glands, vomiting, and diarrhea

(turning bloody within a day or two)

If untreated, 90 percent of dogs with symptoms will die within 7-14 days from dehydra-

tion and blood loss.

If caught early enough, Salmon Poisoning is treatable with antibiotics. In severe cases, in-

See Beware on page 6

Costume Parade on Halloween

The Vernonia Costume Sidewalk Parade will take place on Halloween, October 31, starting at Vernonia City Hall. Meet there at 4:00 p.m. to start the parade at 4:30 p.m.

The parade route (and trick-or-treat to businesses) starts from City Hall, going first to the Library, down Bridge St. (with

detour to Sentry) to Shay Park, crosses the street at Adams Ave. and returns to City Hall via the other side of the street.

All children up to 10 years of age and their parents are welcome. Businesses and organizations that don't have locations on Bridge St. may do their promotions along the route.

Salmon Festival this Saturday

The 10th Annual Vernonia Salmon Festival will be held in Hawkins Park on Saturday, October 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

There will be salmon viewing (if they've made it this far by then) a kids' trout pond, scarecrow building, pumpkin carv-

ing, artist and craft vendors, food vendors, a silent auction, hay rides and music, and Claudia the Chinook will be teaching everyone about salmon.

Come join the community in celebrating Fall and the return of the salmon.

Volunteers Night is on Nov. 3

The volunteers who keep so many functions and events working in Vernonia will be honored at the annual Volunteers Appreciation Night, on Saturday, November 3 at 5:30 p.m.

If you have volunteers you want to recognize, contact Heather Lewis at 503-429-4677, or email aletheia.hti@gmail.com. The event is sponsored by the Vernonia Prevention Coalition.