

The INDEPENDENT

Serving the Upper Nehalem River valley. Published monthly on the last Thursday of each month, by Public Opinion Laboratory Ltd., 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064, as a free newspaper. Editors and Publishers, Dirk and Noni Andersen, (503) 429-9410.

Opinion

Changes have been encouraging during first year's efforts

One year ago the first issue of The INDEPENDENT hit the streets, a response to repeated requests and urgings from many who felt that a community cannot survive as either a political or social entity without a means of communication more reliable than scuttlebut, rumor and gossip.

We agreed then, and we agree now, that there could be neither consensus nor progress without reliable, effective communication. Worst of all, there could be no sense of community.

Several changes have occurred in the last year: No more businesses have closed, in fact several new businesses have opened up. A city-wide property cleanup has been started to eliminate the eyesores of derelict properties. A revitalized planning commission no longer rubber stamps every request for variance. A new city council is taking a fresh look at local government. Mutual aid agreements have been signed by the area's emergency districts.

The INDEPENDENT hasn't made these changes; the people have made the changes. What we have tried to do is provide a forum for ideas, and present alternatives to "We tried that once and it didn't work."

Many more changes are needed. While we are especially pleased that the business community has grown, we would like to see more effort to shop at home. We know there are still services and goods that aren't available here, but much of what we want or need can be found locally. Every dollar spent turns over seven times in the local economy. The money we spend provides jobs somewhere; why not here?

Also, it is the advertisers who provide a "free" newspaper for the community. A year ago we said we didn't expect to make a fortune publishing a paper in Vernonia. That's good, because we haven't. But the paper has survived and perhaps sometime during this next year, with continued support, we will be able to publish twice each month.

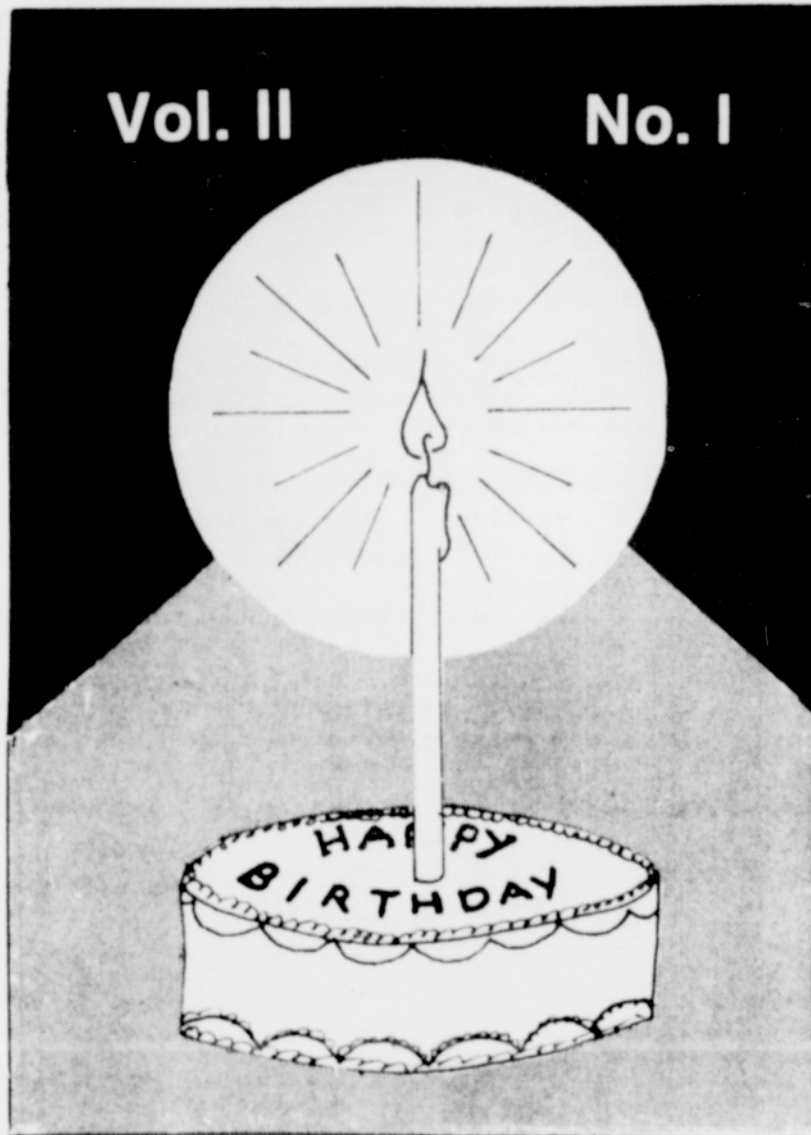
In the meantime, we want to express our appreciation for the support we have received from the community; without that, there would be no newspaper.

Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT welcomes letters from readers, but only those bearing signatures and verifiable addresses will be considered for publication. Letters are subject to editing. Letters should be sent to: Letters to the Editor, the INDEPENDENT, 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Vol. II

No. I



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce for selecting me as the first recipient of their "Man of the Year" award. It is very difficult for me to express the joy and pride which accompanies this honor. But it is easy for me to tell you the importance of the friendships and associations I have acquired over the years, and how they have made tasks I have undertaken far easier than they appear.

The people of Vernonia who work to make this a better community are all deserving of a title such as this. Some efforts are visible, and some stay tucked in the background, but it is the combination of these that will lead to a successful community. We live and work in a town that exists because of the spirit of friendship that abounds from all of you.

I also want to say thanks to all the fine people who have helped me in past projects, and to let you know there are many more on the horizon. To all of you, keep up the good work, together we can make this community all that we hope it to be.

Bill Hawkins
Vernonia

Letter

(Ed. Note: The following letter was sent to Fred Klinger, President of the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce.)

Dear Mr. Klinger:

My sincere thanks to you, your organization, and the selection committee who selected me as Woman of the Year for 1986.

I am highly honored and will strive to continue to do the best I can to maintain the quality of this high reward.

The First Annual Citizens Awards Dinner was very well planned and handled by all who participated, and they are to be congratulated for service rendered.

I have also sent a copy of this letter to our newspaper, The Independent, so that our friends and neighbors of Vernonia can read of just one of the many things our Chamber does creating warmth and friendship in our area.

Wishing your organization growth and prosperity.

Gratefully yours,
Dorothy Yadon
Vernonia

To the Editor:

This letter is written in regard to your first annual Citizens' Awards Dinner. I feel a good time was had by all. The food, entertainment and banquet in general were just great.

Special thanks should go out to Fred Klinger and all of those involved in making the evening the great success it was.

Also a very special thanks to those honored. Without them you would not have the fine, friendly community you have. My wife and I could not help but notice the extraordinary warmth and friendliness present, and you should all be proud.

Your town is very special and we thank you for an extremely enjoyable evening in Vernonia.

We thank you again,
Wally and Linda Thompson
St. Helens

Open letter to the Community:

Many district patrons can recall the problems encountered with a head lice infestation during the 1981-82 school year. Those problems drew attention to the need for adequate and timely head lice screening for students.

As a result of those events several years ago, a group of volunteers, headed by Nona Skinner, has provided head lice screening on a regular basis throughout the school year. Normally conducted the second day of school and after Thanksgiving, Christmas and spring breaks, the checks assist school officials and parents remedy problems that might otherwise go unchecked.

On behalf of the District, I would like to commend Mrs. Skinner and the many volunteers that have assisted her during the past five years. Their task is not always a pleasant one yet they have responded to the challenge in a positive and confidential manner.

Should you have any specific questions or concerns, or like to volunteer to assist, you are encouraged to contact Mrs. Skinner at 429-8401.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Horyna
Superintendent of Schools
Vernonia

To the Editor

We would like to thank all the people who cared and shared with those who had less this Christmas season.

All the churches, Vernonia Cares, Senior Center, so many who gave so unselfishly.

America, the land of plenty, is hurting today - so many people without jobs, with sickness, families without shelter and food.

We do have the freedom to reach. If we have the will to