

Ike Says



This wriggling catch photographed in the Izaak Walton League's Bear Creek trapping project was safely released to go on their way. This particular group is composed mostly of young coho salmon mixed in with a couple of cutthroat trout.

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gathering more volume and force from streams that happily join in from adjacent draws. Now the tiny creek makes noise as it continues down the steep canyon bottom. The creek enters a flat stretch of ground and is momentarily captured in a large man-made pool that is the start of man's world.

The water is not alone on its journey to the Pacific Ocean, some 90 miles away, for there are numerous creatures that live in the creek's water; some permanently, like the macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects) or some, like the salmon, that flow to the Ocean with the coming of each year's spring showers. As the creek enters the town it is forced to flow through strange pipes and unnatural courses of concrete and there are no logs to create holes in the stream bed. There are far fewer trees lining its shore and in many places the water touches nothing but grass on its banks.

Finally the small stream breaks free from this unfriendly environment when it finally enters a bigger stream called Rock Creek. The creek is glad to dilute some of the poisons it received as it flowed through this strange man-made area, poisons like soap suds from washing cars, oils, gas and antifreeze from cars, chemicals applied to houses, yards and streets. They all flowed into the stream via man-made creeks that flow from pipes in the ground.

To many of the people who live along this stream, the creek is a worthless nuisance, especially in the summer when it dries up except for a few tiny pools that languish in the summer heat. Yet, there is worth in this tiny creek for, in spite of man, life struggles on and there is value in this stream for it produces a commodity that man values; that commodity is fish. Of course this value is hidden in the

cone of plastic mesh which funnels them into a solid plastic pipe, a lot like the culvert they were just shot out of. The fish flow down this strange pipe and land in a small basket with no escape to the downstream waters.

Here, they wait until a man comes along, lifts their small prison to the water's surface and opens a lid. The fish are then scooped out individually with a little net, measured and gently released into the downstream waters to complete their journey to the Ocean. This device is the Izaak Walton League's downstream migrant pipe trap in Bear Creek.

The results, so far, prove that there is value in this tiny creek flowing through our town and it's a value worth protecting. Here are the early results of our trapping efforts.

Coho Salmon - 69 smolts with an average length of about five inches.

Steelhead - 5 smolts with an average length of about seven inches.

Cutthroat trout - 24 with an average length of about six inches.

Sculpins - 54 with an average length of about two inches.

This is the data up to April 24th and there will be many more Coho and Cutthroat trout migrating downstream in the coming month. So, as you can see, Bear Creek is far from dead, as many townspeople believe. With a little help, it could be a lot healthier. We will publish the fish counts when we conclude this study in June. And, for all you trout fishermen, there were a couple of real nice, fat eight-inchers that migrated into Rock Creek.

Any of you who want to know more about our great outdoors are invited to join us at our monthly Izaak Walton League meeting, the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Vernonia City Library.



super stock car RACES

1995 Race Schedule

Season Opener May 6

PHRA - Pacific Hardtop Racing Association
WESCO - Wash. Econo Sprint Car Org.
Pre-4 - Modifieds

*dirt filigin',
ground poundin',
1/4 mile oval
Action!!*

June	20	Regular Race	PHRA
	27	Regular Race	PHRA
	3	Regular Race	PHRA
	10	Rain Date	
	17	Port 'O' Fun Race	WESCO
July	1	Regular Race	PHRA
	15	Regular Race	PRO 4-MODIFIEDS
	22	Reg. Race (Double Points)	PHRA
	26	Reg. Race (Wed. Night)	SPECIAL SHOW
Aug.	5	Regular Race	
	12	Regular Race	WESCO
	19	Regular Race	PHRA
Sept.	2	Labor Day Races (2-Day Show)	PHRA
	3	Labor Day Races (2-Day Show)	PHRA
	16	Regular Race	
	23	Championship Race (Double Points)	
	30	10th Annual "Run What Ya Brung" Race	
Oct.	7	Fairgrounds Benefit Race (Run What Ya Brung II)	

Regular Shows include Sportsman, Street Stock, Women & Dwarf Car Divisions

Rivercity Speedway, Columbia County Fairgrounds, St. Helens
Time Trials 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. • Race Time 6:30 p.m.
Columbia County Racing Association • 397-6506/397-2393

Arts and Crafts Society meetings set

The Vernonia Arts & Crafts Society recently elected new officers: Irene Christensen, president; Barbara Sturdevant, vice-president; Arletta Frace, secretary/treasurer.

The organization's next meeting will be held at the City Library, May 11 at 2:00 p.m. An invitation is extended to anyone interested in arts and crafts of all types. New-

comers to the area are welcome as well as any former members or past participants. For more information, call

Arletta Frace at 429-2991, Barbara Sturdevant at 429-6696, or Irene Christensen at 429-7605.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Community Calendar

APR	MAY	JUNE
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

VERNONIA

Adult & Family Services	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
AFS	1st Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8 p.m., 1st Baptist Church
American Cancer Society	2nd Wednesday	12:30 p.m., Golf Course
AWANA Clubs	Wednesdays	7-8:30 p.m., Evangelical Church
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scouts	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Boy Scout Parents	4th Thursday	8-9:00 p.m. WGS Cafeteria
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	7:30 a.m., Country Kitchen
Community Center Project	2nd Wednesday	6 p.m., School District Ofc.
Cub Scouts	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., WGS Gym
Girl Scouts	Thursdays	6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Wednesday	For location call 429-7193
Jamboree Committee	1st Wednesday	7 p.m., VHS library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
MTC Training & Placement	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
Nehalem Valley Car Club	1st Tuesday	7 p.m., Crazy Charlie'
Oregon State Empl. Dept.	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
Preschool Story Hour	Wednesdays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Ridge Riders Saddle Club	Last Thursday	7:30 p.m., City Library
Senior Center Directors	1st Friday	1 p.m., Senior Center
Senior & Disabled Services	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
Society of Arts & Crafts	2nd Thursday	City Library, 429-7605 for time
TOPS	Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., 627 Adams
Vernonia Cares Directors	2nd Thursday*	7:30 p.m., 627 Adams
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:30 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Grange	2nd Saturday	10:00 a.m., Grange Hall

Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Preschool Directors	1st Tuesday	7 p.m., 627 Adams
Vernonia Pride	4th Thursday	7 p.m., VHS Library
Vernonia Rural Fire District	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School District	2nd Thursday	8 p.m., School District Office
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Bd.	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays	7 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursdays	7 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall

COLUMBIA COUNTY

(All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
Columbia ESD	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., 800 Port Ave.
County Fair Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7 p.m., 4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds
County Parks Commission	2nd Wednesday	7 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist.	3rd Tuesday	7 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713
Traffic Safety Commission	1st Wednesday	7 a.m., Village Inn

*January, April, July & October only
Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410, or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064.