

# The INDEPENDENT

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

## Opinion

### Sportsmanship trophy more important than win

The Vernonia Youth Summer Baseball Association has, since its inception, been great for local children. It has given them a safe recreational activity while helping them develop some physical skills at levels appropriate to their ages. Any program that includes young people from age four through high school is ambitious, indeed. VYSBA is successful, too.

Now all those who have so diligently volunteered their time and efforts have received an outstanding gift from a team of nine and ten year-old ball players. It's not just because the American Midgets played skillfully enough to go to state play-offs; that's not the most important part of VYSBA.

The gift was earning the state trophy for Sportsmanship. Team members may be too young to appreciate it, but their coaches, parents and all the adult supporters of VYSBA have reason to be very proud and happy.

Congratulations to all of you.

### Public hearing may as well have been in private

Complaining is always easier than doing something to solve a problem, a truism that has been proven again, this time by the citizens of Banks.

When city officials get frequent complaints about a problem, it's only natural for them to respond with an effort to solve that problem. In Banks, those complaints are about inadequate law enforcement, so part of the effort included a public hearing that would allow the subject to be reviewed, poked and prodded in public.

Two citizens attended.

Lack of funds prevents obtaining law enforcement services in Banks at this time, but it will escape entirely without local input and support.

It takes more than complaints to reach a goal. If the citizens don't care, why should anyone else?

### County should first try to eliminate frustrations

Many normally calm people have expressed considerable frustration over "politicizing" the relationship between Columbia County's gravel mining industry, their detractors and county officials. But one statement was used repeatedly at the hearing on whether the county should relinquish its responsibilities for surface mining regulation to the state.

"I have always supported local control, but..."

The next part of the sentence varied, depending on the speaker's point of view, but the idea came across loud and clear: The county's response to problems that have developed between the mining industry and citizens disturbed by that industry, has been inadequate. Not all of the complaints are valid, but that isn't the point.

It is important that the Board of Commissioners seek common ground and eliminate the frustrations.

# GRIDLOCK DOWNTOWN ADVENTURES IN PARKING



## Ike Says

By David Michael Jones, member  
Isaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

Some fishermen asked me about the worms they were seeing on trout from the Nehalem system this year. Their comment was that this is much earlier than normal; usually the worms appear in August and September when the water is warmer. I contacted a biologist and was told that the worms are a normal occurrence and might be earlier this year because of our warm May. They probably pose no hazard for either humans or the fish, although the worms can weaken the fish. There is a possibility that the worms, combined with low oxygen in the warmer water can weaken and stress a fish. The fish will seek cooler water if it is available.

On to more pleasant fishy news! The Ikes are again organizing a Fishing Derby at Vernonia Lake during the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show coming up soon. This is open to children and there will be prizes. I was able to add to the prizes recently with a very generous donation of a Sage six weight youth fly pole from Kaufmann's Streamborn in Tigard. Kaufmann's is both a retail and mail order fly fishing store and can be contacted at (503) 639-6400 if you want to request a catalog, get directions to the store, order some gear, and/or get fishing information. Their staff is quite knowledgeable and helpful. By the way, they also included a reel, fly line and backing for a complete youth fly fishing outfit. I had to string the pole and make a couple of casts in my backyard and can tell you that is one nice pole. I wonder...if I shaved my beard if I could pass for fourteen? Probably not. Anyone who would like to donate some fishing prizes for the children please call me at 503-429-9251. We would be happy to accept donations from any individual or business. I'll probably tie up some woolly worms and such, that could be used for bass and maybe some streamer flies for trout. It is possible to fish flies with a spinning outfit. A bubble or bobber and a length of leader to a dry fly and one can cast it quite well and take

fish. With a wet fly it is just a matter of a small split shot on the line ahead of the fly.

Being a fisherman all of my life, I enjoy sharing the knowledge and information my experience and, more often, my reading and research bring me. There is an author named Roderick L. Haig-Brown whose books I have been reading the last year or so and I find his books to be filled with down-to-earth fishing lore and a love for Nature. He has a book for the seasons; i.e., Fisherman's Spring, Fisherman's Summer, Fisherman's Fall, etc. Although I haven't read any of his other books, I plan to and can certainly recommend the author. I recently picked up a book at Kaufmann's called *Fly Patterns of Roderick Haig-Brown*, by James Lingren, that lists a number of patterns developed for the trout, salmon, and steelhead of the west coast. This year, I hope to bring a summer steelhead to hand on a dry fly of his called the Steelhead Bee. In my last column I mentioned some very good fishing over on the Deschutes River; anyone heading that way may want to pick up a copy of *Fishing in Oregon's Deschutes River*, by Scott Richmond. Keep tight lines and release Natives!

Another excellent book for the outdoor person is *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast - Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska*, by the British Columbia Forest Service and at least ten contributing authors. This is one of the best plant books that I have seen. It contains both Latin and common names, color plates and, one thing that I found quite interesting, the use that the Native Americans had for the plants.

I plan to do another column on recycling but would like to include a larger area in the column. Anyone within the readership of *The INDEPENDENT* who has information to share on recycling can mail it to me to be used in that column. The address is 12865 Keasey Rd., Vernonia, OR 97064. Thank you!

Izaak Walton League meetings are the third Wednesday of each month, Vernonia Public Library at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome