

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Give generously to help our neighbors

This is Vernonia Cares Food Drive week and a good time to remember that you can help others while also helping yourself. Yes, that reference is to income taxes and, if you are fortunate enough to have an income large enough to itemize your deductions, you can reduce that tax liability by sharing some of your good fortune with valid charitable organizations.

Vernonia Cares is a good place to start, but it's not the only choice. Other good targets could be your local fire district, local library, Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, senior citizens' center, scouting, Lions Club or Boosters. And this is a short list.

If your income doesn't allow you to make a cash donation, you can still help. Perhaps the most valuable contribution any individual can provide is his or her own effort and dedication. It doesn't cost any money, but it brings satisfaction that money can't buy.

Volunteering doesn't always have to be to an agency or organization, either. Perhaps you know someone who is a 24-hour caregiver and could use a few hours of respite every week. Maybe you could make yourself available as a surrogate parent or grandparent to some youngster who needs attention. If you are healthy and strong, you could carry firewood for a neighbor, friend or relative who isn't blessed with vigorous health.

One thing is certain. Anyone who wants to help make this a better world must start in the same place—within himself or herself.

Be certain of the facts before making decisions

The Vernonia City Council has been asked to oppose a liquor license for the Cindernook because they had male strippers one time and people have "heard" they plan to have female strippers. The complainers generally hide their lack of specific knowledge by saying they "heard," "were told," or "understand" such plans have been made.

What they don't say, because they can't, is that they talked directly with either the owner or manager of the establishment.

Until council members or city officials ask the responsible people what their plans are, they should not pass judgement. It is the responsibility of the mayor and council to first ascertain what information is valid and, only *after* doing so, make a decision. This process should apply *regardless* of the question before the city and *regardless* of the type of business.

An improperly run restaurant or auto repair shop can do a great deal of harm, but few council members would consider limiting such businesses without first obtaining sufficient information. Some citizens object to the sale of liquor; that is their right. Some citizens make a legitimate living selling liquor; that is their right.

The council would be wise to make decisions based on facts, not on rumors or innuendo.

CANDIDATE DEBATE

I WON'T LIE ABOUT YOU
IF YOU DON'T
TELL THE
TRUTH
ABOUT ME!



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Ike Says

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

The Christmas season is upon us and it is traditionally the time of love, joy, and sharing between neighbors, family and friends, as well as the celebration of the birth of Christ.

In the past I have mentioned some books that are of interest to sportsmen and sportswomen as gifts that can keep on giving throughout the year. Books are one of the most constantly "giving" presents that there is. I am currently reading a book by Roderick L. Haig-Brown called *A River Never Sleeps*, which is one of the Classics in fishing literature. At the start of the book, Haig-Brown is a beginning steelheader who is able to go out only when he is not working as a member of a logging crew in the late 1920s. Some of his first fish taken in the pursuit of steelhead are Dolly Vardens. Haig-Brown is also known for his "seasons" books named *Fisherman's Spring* and so on through the four seasons. These books are all written in a down to earth style by a man who obviously loved his rivers and fishing. They are well worth adding to one's library or shopping list. *Mountain in the Clouds*, by Bruce Brown, subtitled *A Search for the Wild Salmon*, would be of interest to anyone interested in salmon.

The December issue of *Flyfishing* magazine has a center section which is a catalogue of books available through Frank Amato Publications, PO Box 82112, Portland, 97282-9912. It includes a large variety of books on flyfishing and tying, but there is also a selection of river maps, books on fishing pole construction and other types of fishing, with around 100 titles available. Anyone interested can call 1-800-541-9498 for orders or information.

Kaufmann's Streamborn at 8861 S.W. Commercial, Tigard 97223, is a good source of fishing literature and also carries a lot of Frank Amato Publications. The phone number there is (503) 639-6400.

Many years ago, when I began cooking on a tugboat out on the Pacific, I bought myself a large set of Gerber knives in a beautiful wood

carrying case and they have served me well over the years. This is a Made-in-Oregon product and one with which I have had good luck. Another Oregon company that I like to buy products from is Leupold. They once fixed a pair of 9 x 35 binocs for me that I had treated a little rougher than I should have—and didn't charge me a thing. I have used a 3 to 9 variable scope of theirs for years with no problems. When I look out the window at the rainy weather and realize how many years I hunted in this kind of weather with that scope, I am truly amazed at its continued good performance.

Testing a product in the field is probably one of the best ways to improve it and put it through the rigors that it would have to be subjected to every day by customers. For a number of years I used (and still use) hunting clothing and accessories made by Kathy Kelly Design at 20080 S.W. Jaquith Road in Newburg 97132. The phone number there is (503) 628-3695. When you call there, you will be greeted with "House of Whispering Firs", which is the name of Kelly's Victorian gift shop, which she runs out of the same location. What an opportunity for the Christmas shopper—hunting clothes and accessories and a gift shop—all in one location. I can vouch, as a bow and rifle hunter and a fisherman, that Kelly's clothes, packs and other accessories are warm, quiet and durable. I also find her clothes a big help when I am photographing in our great outdoors here in the Pacific Northwest.

I would like to close with the mention of a plant and animal book called *Western Forests*, which is a field guide to the western forests and woodlands of North America. For the Izaak Walton League I would like to wish all of our readers a very happy and fulfilling holiday season and a new year and future filled with knowledge and growth. Our best to you all.

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