

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Questions? So ask, don't sit and gripe

There have been times when people in the upper Nehalem valley had legitimate reason to complain about being neglected by government officials. During the next seven days, nobody here has reason to fret about neglect.

Tomorrow, June 20, a field representative for U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Furse will be at the Vernonia library from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 21, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden will be in St. Helens at 7:00 p.m., in the Columbia Center on 18th.

The following Thursday, June 27, Columbia County Commissioner Joel Yarbor will hold a town hall meeting in Vernonia, at 7:00 p.m. in the city library.

These meetings have one thing in common: They are not scheduled for speeches; the intent at each of these meetings is *communication*.

Actually, a field representative from Furse's office is here nearly every month, also in Clatskanie, Rainier, St. Helens and Scappoose. If you have trouble getting the ear of Furse's staff, you can't be trying very hard.

This will be Wyden's first visit to Columbia County as a U.S. Senator. When he was a representative, this wasn't part of his district. Now he has the whole state for his district and, to his credit, he is trying to reach Oregonians no matter where they live. It's true that we will have to drive to St. Helens to meet Wyden, but most of us drive farther than that several times a week.

Yarbor's visit next week will probably have more immediate application for most people. Again, this meeting isn't for making speeches, but to give people the opportunity to talk with county department heads, ask questions, make suggestions, or whatever. If you want to know when the roads will be fixed, why you have to have a dog license, how your property taxes are determined, or anything else about county government, June 27th is the time to ask your questions.

On the other hand, if you're not really interested in learning how the system works or why it works the way it does or what you can do to utilize your government better, there's no reason to pull yourself away from those fascinating summer television re-runs.

Please, though, stop complaining about being neglected.

Open process is good, are you interested WOEC?

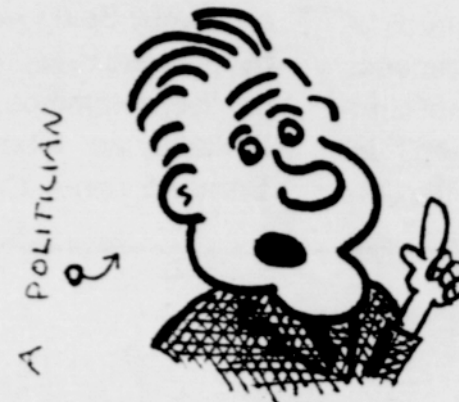
When School District 47J decided to implement a more open process for selection of a high school principal, they did a good job. Involving teachers, staff, students and community, in addition to board members, is a sensible way to achieve a broad consensus.

Now West Oregon is seeking a general manager and a similar process would be smart. Why not seek members from each district to serve on the screening committee? It won't slow the process down and it's likely to aid in a smooth transition. Think about; it can't hurt and it may be beneficial.

THE NEW (accepted) AMERICAN WAY

WELL SOME OF US
DON'T NEED TO
QUIT OUR

OFFICE
TO RUN FOR
THAT OFFICE;



WE CAN JUST GO
AHEAD AND SPEND OUR
TIME CAMPAIGNING WHILE
YOU, THE TAXPAYER, PAYS
US FOR DOING A JOB
WE'RE TOO BUSY TO DO!!

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE
4TH. JUNE

R. Wilson 6/19/96 THE INDEPENDENT

Ike Says

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

As the sun sank behind the distant ridge, the sage-scented air became alive with hundreds of flying silhouettes which were a combination of large salmonflies and golden stoneflies. The salmonflies are one of the largest stoneflies, and get trout and anglers all very excited. I rested myself and my fly pole, and sank down on the bank of the Deschutes River to watch a spectacle that I had never witnessed before that evening. The mauve, red, and pink tinted sky was filled with the larged winged insects that dove and wove their way among each other. By holding my hand up and counting the number of bugs behind it I was able to determine that the flying population numbered in the hundreds. The sections of the sky covered by my hand always covered at least a dozen bugs and often over two dozen. A few of the hapless flyers ended up in the river and prompted aggressive rises from the trout. This multitude of rises brought me out of my pleasant reverie and back to reality...and a pleasant one it was. A quick cast lay the dry fly on the water and a violent rise knocked it out of the water without a hookup. Recasting the improved sofa pillow, I rose, hooked and landed, after three reel-burning runs, one of the biggest redsides of my life. A quick picture and a twist with the forceps to free the barbless hook and the fish was on its way into its native river. Six more rises and the fishing light was off; it was time to head for the rig.

As I picked my way up to my van, I thought about how fat the bodies of the redsides in the Deschutes are compared to the slimmer coastal cutthroats that I fish on Rock Creek. I remembered seeing only one stonefly on Rock Creek so far this year, and none last year. The stonefly common on Rock Creek is brown and black, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches long and, if you collide with one while out bike riding, you will remember it. It has been years since I've seen the little yellow stonefly or large numbers of the brown and black stoneflies.

Stoneflies in the nymphal stage of their life cycle require highly oxygenated water and fishermen often fish the riffles for them. When they begin their migration to shore, along the rocks of the stream bottom, they can become vulnerable and available for the trout as the current dislodges them and tumbles them downstream. Randall Kaufmann, of Kaufmann's Streamborn in Tigard, has developed some excellent nymph patterns for the stonefly and one can get an update on Deschutes fishing or other streams by dropping by the store at 8861 SW Commercial in Tigard. My choice for fishing the dry fly for the salmon fly "hatch" is the MacSalmon with the dark chocolate-colored head, and the only reason I didn't have one on to hook that big redside is because another fish broke my six-pound tippet and left with my last one, the afternoon before.

As I'm working up this column, I can see a number of bird species in the yard and at the feeder. And at the cat food feeder, which also seems to be a bird feeder for the scrub, or gray jays, among others. The gray jays are bringing their charcoal colored young ones to the cat food and I've found robin shells and seen immature robins in the yard. There don't seem to be as many hummingbirds at the feeders, so we don't have to fill them so frequently. I would like to remind those of us who feed those little feathered jewels, the Rufus Hummingbirds, that it is not at all necessary to put food coloring in the sugar water, in fact I have read that it is harmful to their little bodies. We feed a solution of one part white sugar to four parts of boiling water, with no color, and have dozens of these little jewels around. This solution will store in the refrigerator for at least a week. It is also necessary to clean out the fungus that forms in the feeders and a good way to keep the ants out is to hang the feeder from a length of small diameter fish line.

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