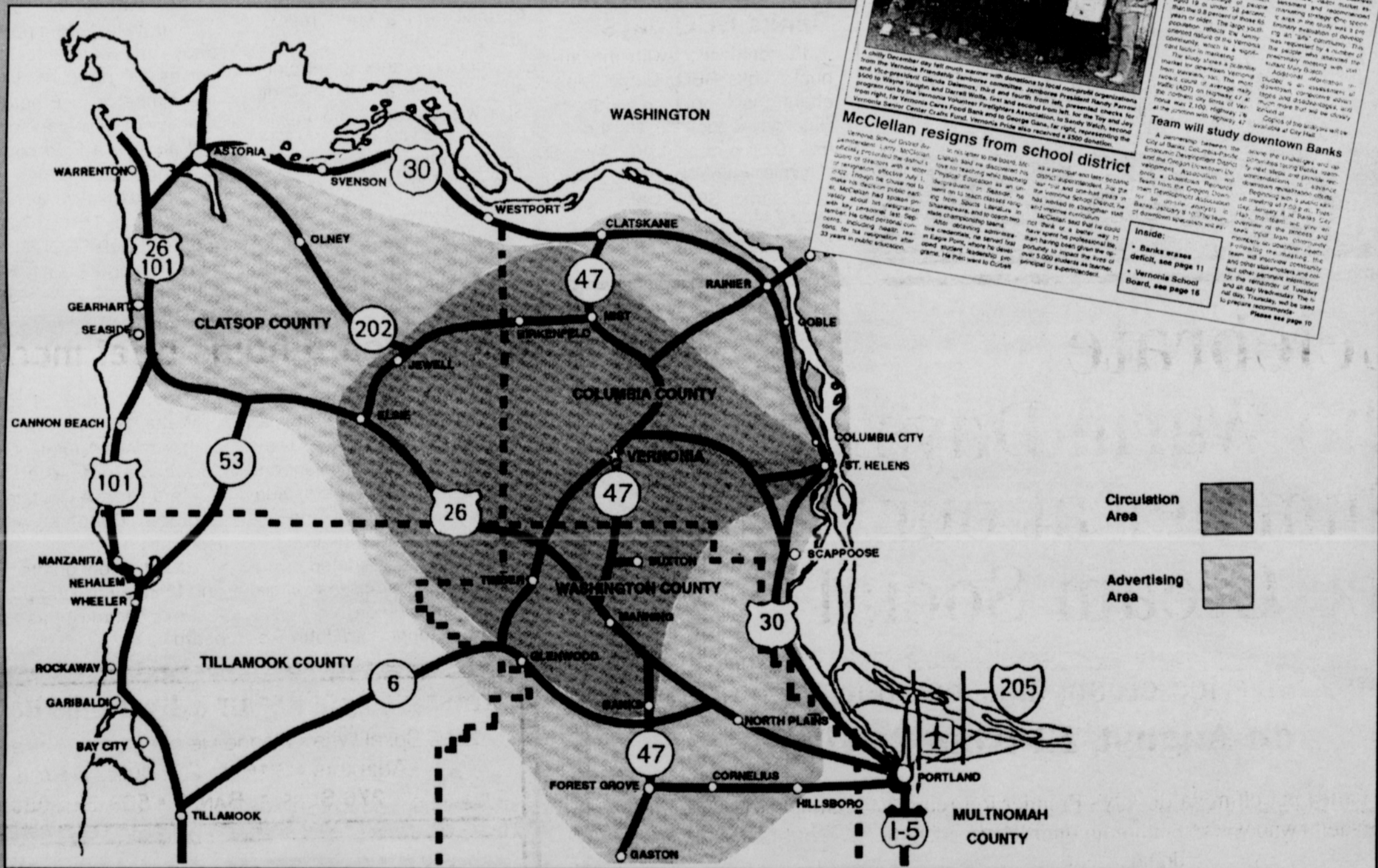


# GREAT AREA . . . GREAT MARKET!

How can you market your product or service to people in east Clatsop County, northwest Washington County and the whole interior of Columbia County?

In the pages of The INDEPENDENT, the only newspaper that goes FREE to the 7,000 people in those elusive markets!

If you are in The INDEPENDENT's advertising area or if you need to reach people in the paper's circulation area, give us a call; we can help you.



**THE INDEPENDENT**  
Vol. 16, No. 24 "Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"  
December 19, 2001

**Community giving and receiving...**

**Vernonia marketing analysis prepared**

A marketing analysis of the area including Clatsop, Washington and Columbia counties was prepared by the Oregon State University Extension Service. The analysis was prepared in part by a grant from the Oregon State University Extension Service and the Clatsop County Community Development Department.

The study shows a population of 15,000 people in the area. The average age is 37 years. The population is growing at a rate of 1.5 percent per year. The study also shows that the area has a high percentage of people who are employed in the service industry.

**McClellan resigns from school district**

Larry McClellan, principal of Vernonia High School, has resigned from his position. McClellan has been in the position for over 10 years. He has a long history of service to the school district and the community.

**Team will study downtown Banks**

A team of local business leaders and city officials will study the downtown area of Banks, Oregon. The study will focus on identifying opportunities for economic development and improving the quality of life in the area.

**Inside:**

- Banks braces deficit, see page 11
- Vernonia School Board, see page 18

Please see page 10

**GREAT RATES . . . GREAT RESULTS**

**The INDEPENDENT**

**Phone/Fax: 503 429-9410**

725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064