

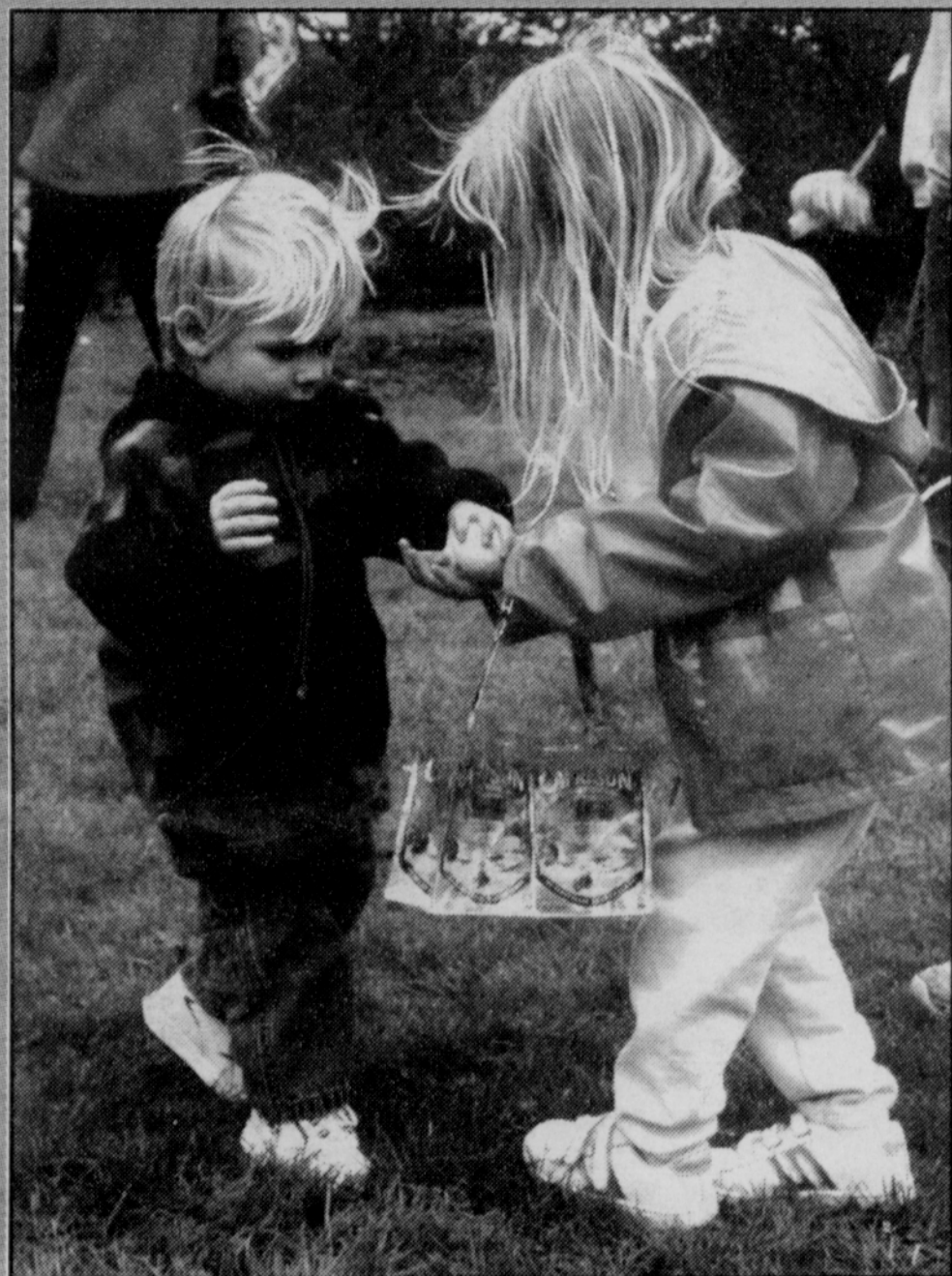
INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20, No. 7

"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

April 7, 2005

An Eggcellent Day!



Teamwork helped these youngsters have a great time during the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce.

Many candidates for May 17 ballots

Candidate filings have closed for the May 17 Special District Elections revealing three contested positions on the board of directors for Vernonia School District, one contested position for the Banks School board and two for the Jewell School board. There are no contested fire district positions.

Vernonia School District

Leslie Barnes and Dick Brunsman are seeking Position 4, currently held by Gienah Cheney, who was appointed and did not file for election.

Position 6 incumbent James Krahn is being challenged by Kim Wallace.

A three-way race has developed for Position 7, held by Philip Doyle, who was appointed. In addition to Doyle, Deborah Brown and Ernie Smith are seeking to fill the position.

Two additional positions will be on the ballot: Angela Taylor is the sole candidate for Position 1, now held by Ed Buckner who was appointed and did not seek election. Cari Levenseller is unopposed in seeking re-election to Position 5.

Banks School District

Will Moore and Ruth Liesegang have both filed for the vacant Position 2.

Incumbents Douglas Nord-

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Vernonia Half Marathon on Saturday

Approximately 150 runners and walkers will be at the starting line for the Vernonia Half Marathon on Saturday, April 9. The event will start at 9:30 a.m. from Anderson Park and proceed 13.1 miles along the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, some of it paved and some gravel, through scenic woods on the abandoned railroad bed that became Oregon's first linear trail. The finish line will be near the Buxton Trail Head.

The Oregon Road Runners Club (ORRC), which is sponsoring the half marathon, will bus participants from the finish back to Vernonia for the awards ceremony. Food, beverages and a few surprises will be provided after the race. Awards will go to the top three overall male and female winners, and to the top three overall male and female masters winners. In addition, ribbons will go to the top five finishers in each five year age group.

A map of the trail and directions, are available at <www.

oregonstateparks.org/park_145.php>.

A limited edition long sleeve Dri-Release T-shirt is available, but only pre-registered participants are guaranteed a shirt. Day of race entrants get shirts as quantities last.

Participants may register at <www.active.com>. Pre-registration for ORRC members is

\$20 with no shirt and \$35 with a shirt; for non-ORRC members the cost is \$25 with no shirt and \$40 with a shirt. Registration, which starts at 8:00 a.m. on the day of the race, is \$50 for all.

For more information, or to volunteer as a helper, call Race Director Mark Barrett at 503-357-3533 or email <MBarretts@aol.com>.

Sen. Wyden brings Town Hall to Vernonia school, senior center

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, who holds a town hall meeting in every Oregon county, every year, chose Vernonia High School as the site of this year's Columbia County Town Hall, on March 28.

Student questions included a variety of topics such as the possibility of a draft, Oregon's assisted suicide law, being able to serve our country at 18 but not being able to drink until 21, school budgets and funding, security improvements needed as a result of recent shootings

at schools, and even "who will win the NCAA tournament?"

Wyden's responses were generally supportive of state laws and states' rights, with the suggestion that the public should be cautious about the issues when they request involvement from the Federal government.

Gordon Smith, owner of Vernonia Sentry, stated he would like to hire more teens (14 to 17 year-olds) but has stopped doing so because of the high

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Lesson in Government



U.S. Senator Ron Wyden visited Vernonia March 28, spending an hour at Vernonia High School, then dropping in at the Vernonia Senior Citizens Center before heading to his next appointment.