

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Cycle Oregon visitors were pleased with local reception

Comments from many of the participants who visited here during Cycle Oregon have been most gratifying. They enjoyed their stay and many said they will return.

A lot of work went into preparations for the overnight stay of 2000 bicycle riders; all of those involved deserve congratulations for a job very well done. You, and everyone who enthusiastically greeted the riders with smiles and warm welcomes, did a good job of representing Vernonia.

School board did their job; we only encouraged them

It isn't often that an editorial writer receives more plaudits than complaints. It is even less often that the editor feels the plaudits should have gone to someone else. Nevertheless, this editor did not...and could not...make a change in administration at the school district.

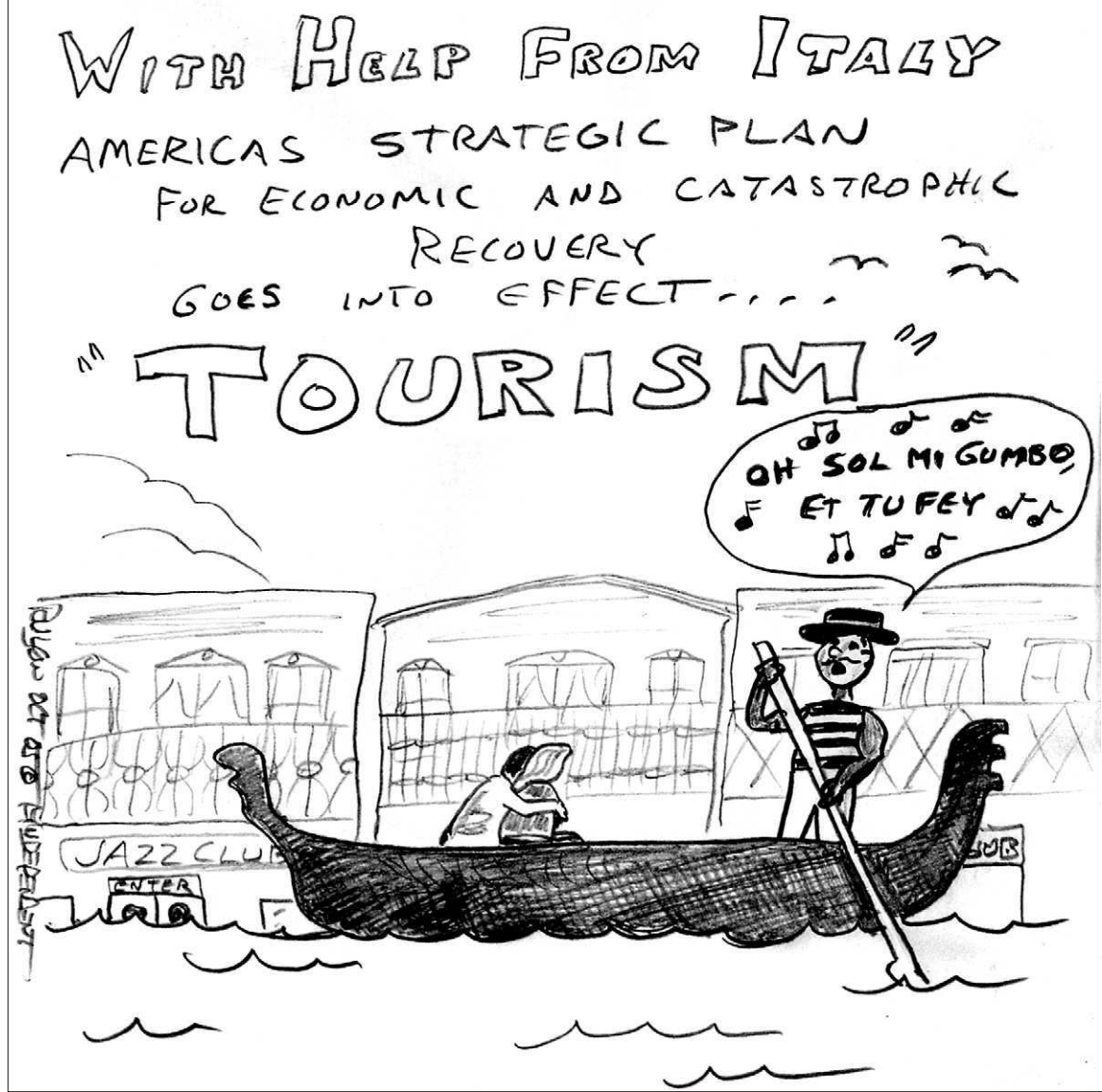
It is hard for volunteer board members to referee discord among employees. Faced with a difficult situation, the Vernonia school board did their job as gracefully as possible. They deserve thanks.

County should have waited to put Sheriff's levy on ballot

A law enforcement levy will be on the ballot in the November special election. These comments have nothing to do with the levy, only with the timing.

A money measure in a special election must meet the double majority standard, ie., at least 50 percent approval and at least 50 percent turnout. Columbia County has never met that standard and isn't likely to this November, particularly without a campaign to provide information about the levy.

The levy will be put on the June ballot, which makes sense. What doesn't make sense is spending funds to print ballots for a county-wide measure that voters will ignore. This is the ONLY county-wide measure on the ballot, and a waste of funds. The Board of Commissioners should be more responsible with our taxes.



Ike Says . . .

By Dale Webb, member
Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League



Hunting seasons are now in full swing; as you read this I hope to be tromping around in Eastern Oregon, chasing mule deer. Bow season was the usual affair...dry weather, closed lands and always somebody cheating the system. Two St. Helens men, Michael Pense and Bradley Parnell, have been charged with wildlife crimes for taking a 7-point bull illegally on closed lands in the Big Eddy area. The one who allegedly shot the bull had a suspended hunting license because of a prior conviction, in 2003, when he illegally took two bulls in Grant County. Oregon State Police are asking for anyone with information to step forward. It is thought there may have been a bull killed earlier in the season.

Non-hunters, I will repeat my warning about wearing a bright color (red or blue) while taking walks in the woods. Most hunters will not mistake you for game, but why take a chance? Just keep this in mind when going out in the woods.

Now how about something fun! How about being able to earn some money while fishing? Sound like a dream come true. Well, here's the skinny! The premiere of the first Vernonia Salmon Festival Fishing Derby is currently underway. Every year during the Salmon Festival Rainbow trout are brought in for a kids' fishing

pond at Hawkins Park. This is a great event, enjoyed by participants and spectators alike. The only problem though, is that the event loses money. There are always trout left over and if the Salmon Festival charged enough to cover the costs, parents would not be able to afford to let their kids fish. So the great idea of having a fishing derby was born. The extra Rainbow trout have been placed into Vernonia Lake, with some of the fish being tagged. You will need to register at the Lake before you go fishing. The registration fee is \$10. You only need to register once during the derby, which started October 2nd, and ends November 6th at 5:00 p.m., or earlier if all of the tagged fish in the pay-out slots are filled. There will be (ten) 1% pay out fish, (ten) 5% pay out fish and (1) 40% pay out fish. The registration fees will be split 60/40 with the pay out pot receiving the larger amount. The 40% pay out fish is a guaranteed \$50 at the start of the derby. There will be twenty 1% fish tagged, twenty 5% fish tagged and two 40% fish tagged. There will also be non-paying fish tagged also. The first individuals that bring their fish in for inspection will be awarded the pay out slots respectively. Even though you catch a tagged fish, it may not be a pay out fish because the pay out slots have been filled or it is a non-pay out fish. The tag will be confiscated during the inspection. Pay out slots will be announced at the conclusion of the derby. You can catch more than one pay out fish. Pay out will be based on the final amount in the pot. You

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