

The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Is Spring here yet?



Colorful robin is a welcome contrast to the weekend's snow and hail.

Lewis & Clark "Campfires & Canoes" stories

They smelled bad, wore ill-fitting leathers, had little to trade and came from the wrong direction in prehistoric dugouts through parts of the great river no sane person would attempt.

"What were we to think?" asks Pat Courtney Gold, a member of the Wasco Nation

whose ancestors watched the "dirty, hairy strangers" also known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition. "And when they did attempt to talk trade, they talked to the wrong people."

Gold is an accomplished basketry and fiber artist who keeps her Wasco history and

Land purchase will enhance B-V Trail

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, at a March 2 meeting in The Dalles, approved the purchase of property in Washington County that should please current and future users of the Banks-Vernonia State Trail.

The \$365,000, 50 acre purchase will move a portion of the Banks-Vernonia Trail off of a

graveled county road. The transaction was made possible chiefly through negotiations by Washington County Commissioner Andy Duyck and his staff.

The rails-to-trails project stretches 22 miles between the towns of Banks and Vernonia. It is increasingly popular with

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culture alive every day, using her drive to learn more traditional arts and teach others about those she's mastered. She comes to the Tent of Many Voices at Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future to show and tell visitors about the arts and how her ancestors lived and related to Lewis and Clark.

Gold will be in the Tent of Many Voices at 1:00 p.m. March 18 and 19, during the Corps II stay in St. Helens, March 13 through the 20th. Her Saturday program is "A Native Woman's View of Dirty, Hairy Strangers - Lewis and Clark." Her Sunday program is "Columbia River Basketry, Tradi-

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Hyde to be honored with national award

Tony Hyde, of Vernonia, has been selected by the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to receive the national award for "Outstanding Performance by a Council Member." This award recognizes Hyde for his outstanding leadership, service and advocacy for the RC&D Program.

A Columbia County Commissioner and Northwest Oregon RC&D Council member, Hyde served six years as the NW Oregon RC&D Council President and is the voting delegate to the Oregon State Association of RC&D Councils. He serves as the RC&D Council liaison to numerous organizations in the RC&D Area and has involved many resource partners, sponsors and local volunteers in project planning and development to implement

the RC&D Area Plan. Through his leadership on the RC&D Council and his membership on regional organizations, Hyde has built partnerships and coalitions with many community leaders and organizations that have resulted in the completion of many community projects throughout the RC&D Area.

The Northwest Oregon RC&D Council includes seven counties - Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill. The Council provides a wide range of assistance to area residents, focusing on six broad areas of concern such as forestry, water, land use, soil, economic development, and air quality. The NW Oregon RC&D Council identifies agencies, organizations, and individuals who can assist in completing each step of the various project plans including outlining sources of technical assistance and listing possible financial sources. Hyde's leadership has resulted in the NW Oregon RC&D Council being chosen to receive the Regional and National Earth Team Awards, and the Pacific Rim Regional RC&D Award for Outstanding Performance by a Council in 2005.

The award will be presented at the Columbia County Court House in St. Helens at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22.

Presentation on meth trafficking

The next presentation of the Vernonia Drug-Free Community Coalition will be March 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Scout Cabin. The topic will be Mexico-based Drug Trafficking Organizations and the "New Meth Problem."

Detective Gary Cima of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, will be giving a one-time only presentation regarding methamphetamine trafficking tactics by Mexico-based drug trafficking organizations. He will speak about the alarming rate that drugs are coming into the United States.

Making a special appearance will be Duke White, the producer/creator of the movie "Downfall," which chronicled the downward spiral of a methamphetamine user.

**Vernonia
St. Patrick's Day
Parade**
March 17, 5:15 p.m.
Starts at State Avenue & Bridge St.
Anyone feeling Irish is welcome
to join in
the fun.