

# The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

May 18, 2006

*She's safe!*

## VHS wins league softball title

The Vernonia High School Softball team won a playoff game Tuesday against Clatskanie, 7-1, to claim the Northwest League championship and head to state competition.

The first game for state will be at VHS on Wednesday, May 24. Time TBA.



Vernonia High School catcher Miranda Nutting is safe at the plate as the ball skips past a Warrenton infielder. The Lady Loggers won both games of the doubleheader at home.

## Mayor clarifies potential for future Vernonia airport uses

A petition signed by 186 people who oppose the sale of the Vernonia airport, was presented to the Vernonia City Council by Mike Seager at the beginning of the May 15 council meeting. Later, during a scheduled workshop on the airport, Mayor Sally Harrison said, "We are not going to get rid of the airport." She went on to say that she wants the community to continue having a public airport.

Harrison outlined four options for the airport: 1) maintain it as it is now, 2) sell the property to have it developed, 3) form a partnership of some kind where the city controls the airstrip and someone else handles the property, or 4) lease the property.

Both Mayor Harrison and City Administrator Robyn Bassett spoke of keeping the asset of the airport, while finding a way to establish light industry there to provide family wage jobs so more residents can work and live in Vernonia. Tim Bero, a local resident and business owner, handed out a page showing his idea for purchasing the property and having airport services (fuel, telephone, transportation), plus light industrial space on the site.

At the end of the airport workshop there appeared to be general agreement that getting

as many proposals or options as possible, before making a final decision, would be best. The City will solicit proposals in order to broaden the options.

Council (Councilor Parrow was on vacation and did not attend.) reviewed a consultant's report on drainage problems on private property on Mist Drive. The report indicates that the land is jurisdictional wetland and that a permit from Oregon Division of State Lands will be needed before the property owner can make any modifications to the drainage. City staff was directed to notify the property owner and work with him on the permit process.

As a continuation to a workshop held last October, a request from Clark McGaugh asking the council to restrict fireworks at Vernonia Lake was

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## Public invited to M-B Health Fair

The public is invited to a free Health Fair on Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Main Station, 12525 Hwy 20, Mist.

There will be 20-plus presenters, plus door prizes each hour. The grand prize drawing at 4:00 p.m. will be from the people who have stickers from all of the presenters.

## Low voter turnout defeats law enforcement levy

By Noni Andersen

In a remarkable display of inertia, most Columbia County voters were unable to summon enough energy to fill in the little oval spaces on their ballots, put

the ballot in the secrecy envelope, sign the mailing envelope, and either put a stamp on the envelope and mail it, or take the ballot to a drop site. It was just too rigorous.

Voter turnout was 44.3 percent for Columbia County. Vernonia voters, however were outstanding, managing just slightly more than 41 percent.

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**River Fest 2006**  
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