

Letters

Kids Fishing Derby was fun for all ages

To the Editor:
This year's Jamboree Kids Fish Derby went off well, everybody seems happy with the one hour fishing time.

A special thanks to *The Independent* paper, who has been a sponsor for years.

Thanks to True Value and Vernonia Hardware for donations of fishing tackle. Thanks to Bill Yeo for auctioning off items that were left over after the kids got their Derby prizes. We also had a drawing for prizes, the kids enjoyed that.

We had 44 youths fishing this year and had a lot of fun. We had quite a few youths from out of town, but the number of local youths was down for

some reason.

A big thanks to those who helped measure and count the fish and pick the winners; Bob Scoggens, Jack Lindsley, Marvin Long, DeDe Webb, Donna Webb, Dale Webb, Mario Leonetti, Dennis Nelson and Rebecca McGaugh.

**Don Webb
Fish Derby Helper
The Nehalem Valley
Chapter of the
Izaak Walton League**

Too many fail to stand while flag passes by

To the Editor:
Small town American – the backbone of our country – the town with the “Can Do” spirit – the town that went through two 100-year floods in just a little over a decade, neighbor helping neighbor, stranger helping stranger, a shining example of Americans for our children and grandchildren; patriots one and all.

I watched Saturday during the Jamboree parade as thousands lined the streets, townspeople plus visitors, many of who were the wonderful volunteers who assisted during our time of need. Lining up an hour before it started, waiting in anticipation for the renowned Vernonia Jamboree Parade. And then finally, it started – Yea! Here they come, first Chief Workman in his Police vehicle and then the Boy Scouts and the Honor Guard and then SHOCK!!! – Only a handful of those lining the streets stood and put their hands over their hearts as the ‘Colors’ passed by.

Granted, a number of you may be disenchanted with the current administration and the direction the country is going, but that is still our flag and the symbol of what this great country means and a reminder of all who fought for our freedom.

A suggestion for future parades, maybe the Chief could have the National Anthem or other patriotic songs (America the Beautiful, God Bless America, etc.) playing through his

bullhorn or whatever sound system they can rig up, to sort of remind the spectators to start the parade with PRIDE.

**Don Biancone
Vernonia**

Scout Cabin needs more board members

To the Editor:
I watched the flood of ‘96 and the last one in ‘07. and I feel there is only one word for all of the volunteers who helped: Hero

Heroes helped rebuild the Vernonia Scout Cabin after the ‘96 flood, and heroes are needed again, but not to rebuild.

The beautiful Scout Cabin we all enjoy needs commitment and involvement, so this call is being sent out for heroes who would like to join the current board members for this non-profit organization. We need help.

For more information, please call 503-429-8403 or 503-429-7193.

**Isabelle McDaniel
Vernonia**

Board members are needed for CCWRC

To the Editor:
Try to imagine, just for a moment...you are 32 years old and you have two young children. The three of you have the clothes on your back, a worn teddy bear, a treasured toy truck and \$28.00 in your purse. You have a split lip, a black eye that is swollen closed, and several bruised ribs. You're on the run from the person that has physically and emotionally abused you for several years. You are frightened to be running and to be so alone, but you are even more terrified that the next time you will die. And you know all too well that there will be a next time. You have no close family that can or will help you. They've always looked the other way, after all, they don't want to interfere in other people's business. What now? What will you do? Where will you go with your \$28.00?

Well...we're just imagining, right? Most of us, thankfully, will never be in this position. But, unfortunately, this scenario is just one of many and it's not just a big city issue. The Columbia County Women's Resource Center (CCWRC) exists to provide safety and shelter for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse, as well as counseling and the skills development to help them to become strong and self-sufficient.

The staff at CCWRC is small, but dedicated and hard-working. There are many amazing volunteers who give of their time and energy to help at the shelter and office as well as helping at the Starting Over Store, a resale shop which is an arm of CCWRC.

CCWRC is seeking volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board is looking for members with financial experience, fundraising experience or experience with non-profit boards. If you would like more information about being a board member please call Pam Powell, Board Chair at 503-936-6848.

We would like to thank all of you who have supported our fund raising events, who have

given donations of money, goods, and time, and those who have lifted us with your good thoughts and prayers. The reality is that each year there are more victims who need our help and fewer funding sources to support that need. Times are hard for many families right now and we know that there are many worthy causes out there. If you are able to give a donation, we would ask that you remember the Columbia County Women's Resource Center. We appreciate and thank you for any amount, large or small.

For more information about CCWRC and its commitment to our local communities, log onto www.noexcuse4abuse.com.

**Linda Liefeld
Volunteer Board Member
St. Helens**

Immigrants have not caused our recession

To the Editor:
It's no secret that many of us are hurting – feeling the pain of rising fuel costs, soaring interest rates, maxed-out debt, falling home values, and threatening unemployment.

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to pry a two-ton rock out of the road with a screwdriver. The chapter was inventive, though, and soon they found the lever to move that rock – Channel 2 News and Pat Wilkins. All it took was a couple of minutes on the news exposing what was going on and the DEQ was on the phone saying they would take care of the problem, please no more news media! I can say that the Nehalem Valley Chapter definitely saved a lot of fishery resources in the Nehalem River and a lot of that credit should go to Ralph Bergerson and the other charter members who formed our chapter.

We are living in an interesting time right now, a time that I predict will bring many changes. We are being forced to be conservationists of fossil fuels. While the increases in the price of fuel are indeed painful, it is what will drive the change that will ensure our futures. Whether we will be driving vehicles powered by hydrogen, water, compressed air, compressed natural gas, sunlight or something else to be discovered is yet to be seen. Let us choose wisely the path for the future.

Where to Find Them

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Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters that include personal attacks on private citizens. Because of space limitations, preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-428-7193 for location.