

## Ike Says . . .

### From page 2

heavy, it was not as heavy as the hourly rainfall rates of December '07, nor did it have the duration of that event. We had some snowmelt but, again, it did not all melt in a rush, if we had gotten the rainfall forecast, that might have happened. If we had caught the brunt of the rainfall, like our neighbors to the north, we could easily have had a repeat of the '07. We wouldn't have had as much rain as '07, but we had more water content in snow and the river was already higher than at that time, two factors which would have made a difference.

Vernonia is fortunate that we now have the USGS river gage near Clear Creek on the upper Nehalem; this gage gives us plenty of warning to a flood event. Our first warning system is the National Weather Service, which does a great job of giving us a heads up, then we can rely on the river gage and local spotters to give us refined readings of what is going on around us. During the second event, I made contact with Robert Wagner on the upper Nehalem at Timber, Bill Hansen on the Nehalem, Jim Buxton and Marty Van Dyken, both on

Rock Creek. These gentlemen were willing to monitor river levels, provide snow depth measurements and rainfall data, all crucial aspects of providing in-depth data with which to gauge how the rain-on-snow event is unfolding around us. The key to having adequate warning for a flood is having solid data and learning to use it. Over time, I envision we will become more comfortable with these events, we can lessen the fear and give people more lead time when an event is looming. If anybody else would like to volunteer weather reports during these events please give me a call.

Some may question whether there was an overreaction on the last two snow-on-rain events, let me assure you, I am nothing but amazed at the preparedness that was displayed by our city. The threat was definitely there and a minor change in where the weather hit could have had dire effects upon us. Let's hope we don't see any more of these events

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

### Where to Find Them

**U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (Dem)**  
1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 585  
Portland OR 97232  
Phone: 503-326-7525  
223 Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001  
Phone: 202-224-5244  
E-Mail: <http://wyden.senate.gov/contact>  
Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (Dem.)  
One World Trade Center  
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250  
Portland, OR 97204  
Phone: 503-326-3386  
B-40B Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg.  
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WebSite: [http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/senators/one\\_item\\_and\\_teasers/merkley.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/senators/one_item_and_teasers/merkley.htm)

**U.S. Representative David Wu (Dem) OR Dist. 1**  
620 SW Main, Suite 606  
Portland, OR 97205  
Phone: 503-326-2901  
2338 Rayburn House Ofc. Bldg.  
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**Senator Betsy Johnson (Dem) Dist. 16**  
PO Box R,  
Scappoose, OR 97056  
Phone: 503-543-4046  
900 Court St. NE, S-314  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1716  
E-mail: [sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us](mailto:sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson>

**Rep. Brad Witt (Dem) Dist. 31**  
21740 Lindberg Road,  
Clatskanie, OR 97016  
Phone: 503-728-4664  
900 Court St. NE, H-373  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1431  
E-mail: [rep.bradwitt@state.or.us](mailto:rep.bradwitt@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt>

**Rep. Deborah Boone (Dem) Dist. 32**  
PO Box 926  
Cannon Beach, OR 97110  
Phone: 503-717-9182  
900 Court St. NE, H-375  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1432  
E-mail: [rep.deborahboone@state.or.us](mailto:rep.deborahboone@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/boone>

in the future, but rest assured, the citizens of Vernonia have learned how to prepare and safeguard its citizens if an event does happen.

## 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.

## Salem Scene

By Representative Brad Witt  
Oregon District 31



Last session, I devoted part of a newsletter to a description of the Oregon Prescription Drug Program, but in this economic environment, it bears repeating. This incredible program provides coverage for many people who would not otherwise qualify. Following is a brief description of the program. Read on...you may see someone you know...

Six years ago, the 72nd Legislative Assembly approved SB 875, which authorized the formation of the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP). The program actually launched on March 1, 2005. In July 2006, the OPDP joined with Washington's Prescription Drug Program (WPDP) to form the NW Prescription Drug Consortium. Then, in November 2006, 78 percent of Oregon voters elected to open the pool to all uninsured Oregonians. The following spring of 2007, the 74th Assembly approved SB 362, opening the pool to all Oregon businesses, labor organizations and the underinsured.

All Oregon residents are eligible to join the discount part of the OPDP if they are uninsured or underinsured. There is no age or income requirement and no paperwork necessary. Even Medicare Part D members may use their OPDP discount card during periods of 100 percent copay, like the donut hole or during deductible periods. There are currently over 100,000 members on the individual side of the program.

Any business in the public or private sector that offers prescription drug benefits to their employees is also eligible to join the pool. They will benefit from competitive pricing, a completely transparent purchasing arrangement, and financially backed performance guarantees.

Labor organizations offering prescription drug benefits are also eligible to join the OPDP.

Businesses that do not offer Rx benefits to their employees should encourage them to join the discount part of the OPDP. It is quick and easy to apply and there is no cost to enroll. Six groups currently participate in the program with a

## Letters

### Thanks for years of Swatco partnership

To the Editor:

The Friends of the Banks Public Library would like to thank Swatco for their many years of support. We have enjoyed a unique partnership. We provided them with staff for the Banks community recycling depot once a month and they provided us with funds to help with library programs. Due to the downturn of the recycling market, Swatco can no longer continue and we will miss them. We wish them well and hope

the recycling future becomes brighter.

**Stephanie Jones, President  
Margaret Holland, Secretary  
Fran Todd, Treasurer  
Banks**

### Gate keeps dog in

To the Editor:

I want to let everyone know that the gate on my bridge is there to keep my dog in – not to keep people (or shooters) out. The sign on the bridge gives instructions for entry.

**Bill Sword  
Sword's Place  
Vernonia**

total group enrollment exceeding 118,000.

I hope that you will pass this information on to anyone that you think may be able to use it. You can access the ODPD website at [www.OPDP.org](http://www.OPDP.org), where you will find more information and where you may sign up, if appropriate.

Another topic of interest that I KNOW my district will be interested in is a web survey offered by the Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning, also known as The Big Look. The Task Force is conducting an evaluation of Oregon's present land use planning program. One of the first steps is to survey Oregonians to identify major land use issues that the Task Force should study. You can access this survey at [www.oregon.gov/LCD/BIGLOOK/surveys.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/BIGLOOK/surveys.shtml). The deadline to complete the survey is July 10, 2009.

### Bills of Interest:

• A package of six bills that will crackdown on educator misconduct. Briefly, they are as follows:

1. Make it a crime for an educator or person in authority to have sexual contact with a student through 12th grade, even if the student is 18.

2. Require newly hired school employees to provide a list of all previous employers and give permission for those employers to share personnel files.

3. Prohibit districts from entering into union contracts or individual agreements that protect employees' misconduct from disclosure.

4. Allow the state to deny a teaching license to an educator who lost his or her license in another jurisdiction.

5. Prohibit an educator whose license has been revoked from working for the same employer in a different position.

6. Allow the state to discipline student teachers who have not yet applied for a teaching license.

• HB 2365 Prohibits the sale of dangerous and deceptive novelty lighters, which often fall into the hands of small children.

• SB 331 Prohibits a person from serving as chief petitioner of initiative, referendum or recall petition if that person has outstanding obligation to pay civil penalty for violation of election law or rule.

That's it for this week. Thanks for taking the time to read my newsletter.