



# THE INDEPENDENT

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The Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley for Over 25 years

May 6, 2010



Snake is on the menu for this great blue heron at Vernonia Lake. Photo by Garry Kinney.

## Car wash benefit for school bands

The Vernonia School Band Program car washes scheduled for May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14 and September 11 (the second Saturday of each month) will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the District Office parking lot.

All proceeds go to band events, festivals and instrument repairs. Donations gladly accepted.

**Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters**  
3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast  
May 16 • 8 AM - 1 PM  
Fire Truck Rides  
Blood Pressure Checks  
Firewood Raffle

## June 2 filing for mayor, 2 council seats

The position of mayor of Vernonia, in addition to two council positions, will be on the ballot of the November 2 election. The mayor's term of office is two years. The two council positions are both four year terms, and are currently filled by Brett Costley and Cindy Ball.

Those interested in seeking one of the open positions should request an election packet at Vernonia City Hall, office of the City Recorder, 1001 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR

## Ballot counting test and drop sites

A Public Certification Test of the counting equipment for the May 18 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 11.

The testing will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the County Elections Dept. The public is welcome to attend.

Drop sites for the election include:

97064. The packet will include a nominating petition that can be filed between June 2 and August 24 (by 4:00 p.m.) with the City Recorder. Those filing with signatures (rather than paying the nominal \$10 fee) are requested to submit petitions no later than August 20 by 4:00 p.m. in order for all signatures to be validated prior to the filing deadline.

For more information, contact City Recorder Joann Glass at 503-429-5291, ext. 104.

- Vernonia Library, 701 Weed Ave., through May 17, during regular hours and from Noon to 8:00 p.m. on May 18.
- Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD, 12525 Hwy 202, during office hours from now through May 17. On May 18, drop off hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Merkley's target is more rural jobs and lower energy costs

by Senator Jeff Merkley

The unemployment rate in Oregon has been in double digits for the past year, but it seems as though many politicians in the nation's capital are focused on creating frustration and gridlock instead of new jobs.

Bipartisanship isn't completely dead, though. Recently, I joined with members of both parties, including Republican Senators Richard Lugar of Indiana and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, to introduce a bill that will both create jobs and lower monthly energy bills for families and businesses.

It's called the Rural Energy Savings Program and it works like this: Rural electric co-ops, like West Oregon Electric Co-op in Vernonia, will administer low-cost loans to help families and business owners afford the up-front costs of energy efficient renovations. The families and business owners will see their energy bills go down, and can pay off the loan out of these savings. In fact, they can pay it back with a charge on their electric bill, so they don't even have to pay an additional bill.

The construction and manu-

facturing sectors have suffered major job losses during the recession. This program will put people back to work installing and manufacturing energy efficient materials like insulation, windows, roofing, and heating and air conditioning units. The vast majority of these products are made in the U.S., and many of them are made in Oregon, like the insulation products made at Owens Corning in Portland, the efficient lighting made at Energy Wise Lighting in the Eugene area, or the windows made at JELD-WEN in Klamath Falls.

I've been working to develop similar energy efficiency programs called "Home Star" and "Building Star" that will be put into action at the local level to offer rebates and low-cost financing options to home and business owners, whether or not they live in areas that are served by electric co-ops.

The only way out of this recession will be through hard work and cooperation, and the support for this program that I've seen from both Democrats and Republicans makes me confident that we can put Americans back to work and move our economy forward.

## Hilger Memorial Trap Shoot, May 15

The 14th annual Dan Hilger Memorial Trap Shoot will be held May 15, starting at noon, at the Verboort Gun Club.

All proceeds will be donated to the children of Dan Hilger trust fund. Cash donations are also appreciated. Last year a total of \$7,200.00 was donated to the four children of Dan and Tammy Hilger. The shoot is sponsored by the Verboort Gun Club, the Sunset Gun Club, and Bighorn Logging.

A Remington 300 Ultra Mag Model 700 XCR Rocky Mtn. Elk

Foundation edition (valued at \$815.00) and a 77 Ruger Hawkeye .375 RCM Bolt Action SS (valued at \$790.00) will be raffled off at the shoot. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Make checks for raffle and donations to "Hilger Trust".

Lunch will be for sale at the snack bar. Bring the whole family (no age limits).

For more information, call Denise at 503-324-2422. Donations may be mailed to 120 North Main Street, Banks, OR 97106.