



## Don't keep sturgeon after today

Fishery managers from Oregon and Washington closed the Columbia River to retention of sturgeon in The Dalles Reservoir, between The Dalles and John Day dams, effective today, May 6.

The action was taken during a joint hearing of the two states, based on surveys indicating that anglers are on track to achieve their harvest guideline of 300 sturgeon by that date.

Through April 25, anglers had harvested 264 sturgeon. Over the past three weeks, harvest has averaged 36 fish per week.

This is the third sturgeon retention closure of the year above Bonneville Dam. Bonneville Reservoir closed on Feb. 21 when the harvest guideline of 1,400 fish was achieved, and the John Day Reservoir closed on March 1 when the harvest guideline for that section of river was met.

Catch and release angling is allowed year-round between Bonneville and McNary dams except in the sturgeon spawning sanctuaries in place May 1 through July 31 downstream of both the John Day and McNary dams.



**Left; flowers get planted by two of the approximately 160 volunteers who turned out for the annual Make Vernonia Shine Day on April 17.**

## Ike Says . . .

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 counties that share in the revenue that is derived from timber sales pushing hard for more timber cutting. With several ESA listed species dependent on these state forests for habitat, this issue of increasing the cut could wind up in Federal court again. Many also contend that the cutting level being projected is beyond a sustainable level, which means that, at some time in the future, reduc-

tions in harvest will be expected. There is also the question of whether the state should sell timber at the record low prices of the current market when, in a few years, the prices could be far higher. I'm afraid that this issue will be with us for a very long time — that is if a Federal court doesn't step in and take management away from we Oregonians. One would think that lesson should already have been learned.

What is up with this weather? My recent sage rat hunt to eastern Oregon was almost a bust due to wind, rain, sleet, snow and cold. While this weather is a pain for sportspeople trying to enjoy the outdoors it is doing one good thing. With all the rain, local rivers are running about twice the normal

flow, yet they are not muddied up. This will provide very good conditions for smolts that are migrating to the estuary and beyond. We need some good conditions for these fish, especially after last year's record high stream temperatures. The wind is good news too; it is a Northwest wind that brings up-

welling in the ocean, and that will mean lots of food for the smolts when they reach the ocean.

**Izaak Walton League,  
 Nehalem Valley Chapter**  
 meets monthly on the 3rd  
 Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call  
 503-429-7193 for location.

## Letters

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 and two of its employees; \$700 from the building contractor Stellar J Corporation; \$200 from building contractor J.H. Kelly's president; \$500 from All-Out Sewer Drain Service, Inc.; \$300 from Tri-City Insurance, Inc; \$500 from Oliva Brothers, LLC; \$250 from Tillamook Fiber Recovery, Inc.; \$250 from Foss Maritime; and \$150 from Rainier's City Attorney, Stephen D. Petersen.

Several of these contributing firms have had business dealings with the City of Rainier in which Russ Moon, a city councilor, has played an active role. This financial profile may suggest to some the appearance of a potential conflict of interest.

To clear up any lingering concerns, maybe Mr. Moon could explain the quid pro quo, if any, for these generous polit-

ical contributions.

**Hank Bartholomew  
 Rainier**

## Sykes is committed to local businesses

To the Editor:

As the owner of a local business, I admire Shawna Sykes' commitment to serving, promoting, and patronizing local businesses. She knows the importance of supporting those businesses that support the community and she familiarizes others with the local businesses so that they, too, will shop locally. You can see her track record with her campaign purchases during this campaign; local money spent supporting local businesses. She doesn't just talk about it, shopping at and supporting local businesses is her routine. Vote Shawna

Sykes for County Commissioner Position 2, it's good for business.

**Doug Boyes  
 Wild Currant Catering  
 St. Helens**

## Sykes' education and experience needed

To the Editor:

Admittedly I am biased where the election of Columbia County Commissioner #2 is concerned: Shawna Sykes is my daughter-in-law. Because I am well acquainted with her, I can assure you that she is a hard worker and would be an excellent commissioner.

With due respect, all of the Candidates are well qualified in their fields. If I wanted to hire a competent real estate person, a supervisory medic, or a

**Please see page 19**

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